Education

The School of Humanities

Chair
Meredith Skura

Professors
Ronald L. Sass
Raymond O. Wells, Jr.

Associate Professors
Joe Dan Austin
Linda M. McNeil

Clinical Professors
Cheryl L. Craig
Wallace Dominey
Elnora Harcombe
Anne Papakonstantinou
Lissa Heckelman
Roland B. Smith, Jr.
Cylette Willis

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

Students in the teacher education program show a commitment to teaching, a strong record of scholarship in their subject areas, and promise as thoughtful, engaging teachers. Graduates emerge from the program knowledgeable in their particular fields and fully prepared for the teaching profession, trained in children’s learning, schools and school policy, and a diversity of teaching styles and methods. The Rice 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 and supervising the learning process.

Rice offers three teacher education plans: a secondary teaching certificate in combination with the undergraduate degree in the elected subject field(s), a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.), and a postbaccalaureate plan for Class III students (page 93) that involves taking those courses and state examinations needed for certification but does not confer a degree. All three plans include intensive study in the teaching field, courses in professional preparation, teaching in the Rice Summer School for Middle and High School Students, and (for postbaccalaureate students in the M.A.T. plan) a paid internship in an accredited secondary school. While maintaining their institutional integrity, the Rice programs comply with state of Texas certification requirements. Students seeking additional information about the teacher education program may wish to acquire a Teacher Education Program Handbook from the department. They are also 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 teach and create courses under the supervision of experienced master teachers and university faculty in the Rice Summer School for Middle and High School Students.

**Internships** are undertaken by Master of Arts in Teaching candidates and by undergraduates who begin earning certification in their senior year. Under this plan, students teach one summer session in the Rice University Summer School for Middle and High School Students, as described previously, and then are supervised through their first semester of a full-time, paid teaching practicum in a neighboring, cooperating school system. Permission to do the field-based practicum is contingent upon a successful summer-school teaching experience.

**Requirements for Secondary Teaching Certificate with B.A.**

**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 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 Teacher Certification Program form approved by department representatives and the Teacher Education Council before registration for the junior year.

**Requirements.** 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 1999–2000 academic year. All courses in their field(s) of specialization (see specific plans below) must have the approval of members of the Rice Teacher Education Council. Each student’s plan of study is designed in conjunction with an adviser in the Department of Education and in the student’s major department. To complete the teacher education program while earning a bachelor’s degree, 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 of upper-level work
  - **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:
  - EDUC 311 or 511 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations*
  - EDUC 312 or 512 *Psychology of Human Learning*
  - EDUC 409 or 509 *Fundamentals of Secondary Education*
  - 3 hours in the appropriate seminar in teaching
  - 6 hours in student teaching (see following)
- Acquire a broad base of liberal arts courses while fulfilling university distribution requirements (see pages 19–20)
- Satisfy a state requirement for computer literacy
- Ensure they have met all 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
- Pass appropriate ExCET exams
Apprenticeship Plan (Plan A)

**Junior Year**
EDUC 311 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations*
EDUC 312 *Psychology of Human Learning*
Relevant seminar in teaching
Student teaching in Rice Summer School

**Senior Year**
EDUC 409 *Fundamentals of Secondary Education*
400-level seminar in teaching
Student teaching in Rice Summer School (after graduation)

Internship Plan (Plan B)

**Before Graduation**
EDUC 311 *Historical and Philosophical Foundations*
EDUC 312 *Psychology of Human Learning*
EDUC 409 *Fundamentals of Secondary Education*
Appropriate seminar in teaching (3 hours)

**After Graduation**
Student teaching in Rice Summer School
Student teaching internship during the fall in secondary school
Seminar accompanying the internship

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. See Admission to Graduate Study (page 77). Admitted students must exempt or pass 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 72–73). 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 usually fulfill all requirements for a Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate. A limited number of tuition waivers are available. 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
- 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 and rules on admission to the teacher education program.

See EDUC (pages 309–312) in the Courses of Instruction section.