

A COLLEGE GRADUATE'S GUIDE TO
BECOMING A TEACHER
IN NEW YORK STATE



Hello.

“Teaching is the essential profession, the one that makes all other professions possible.”

David Haselkorn, President of Recruiting New Teachers, Inc.

Let's reflect. What brings you here?

Do you find yourself in one of the following scenarios?

1. You have known that you were meant to be a teacher since you were a child. You created lesson plans for an audience of stuffed animals and dreamed about what your classroom would look like someday.
2. You just realized that you're ready for something bigger and more meaningful in your life. Perhaps you are interested in a stable career that allows you to make a difference in the world.
3. You are already working in the education field, and you want to take your career to the next level with an additional certification or credential.

No matter where you find yourself, this guide was created to give you helpful information so you can achieve your teaching goals. By downloading this resource, you've already proven that you're ready to take the next step.

The world needs more teachers like you.

When you decide to become a teacher, you become part of something bigger. You come to the profession with expertise in your field of study and a desire to make a difference.

You've completed your bachelor's degree. Now, all you need to turn your passion into a rewarding reality is a graduate degree that leads to teaching certification.

This guide will help you explore your options, and will specifically focus on teacher certification at the graduate level in New York State.

If you are already a teacher, you can learn about available professional certification programs on page 23. If you are new to the teaching profession, please continue.

Now, let's help you get to where you're meant to be.



Is now the right time to become a teacher?

You already know that teaching is a rewarding, stable career with the potential to shape students' lives. But maybe you're not sure if now is the right time to begin or enhance your teaching career. Sound familiar?

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Am I ready to help shape the next generation?
2. Do I have the desire to help others learn about my subject of interest?
3. Am I patient, passionate and supportive?
4. Do I want to gain the skills that are necessary to succeed in today's classrooms?
5. Do I want to work with children and young people to make a difference in their lives?

Did you answer yes to any of these questions?

Now might be the perfect time for you to take the next step.

So, how do you become a teacher?

Become a teacher in New York.

To become a teacher in a public school in New York State, you must:

- have a bachelor's degree
- complete a New York State teacher certification program
- pass the required workshops and examinations

Upon meeting the requirements for certification, you will be issued a teaching certificate in New York State.

Become a teacher in another state.

If you are not interested in obtaining New York State teaching certification, you must familiarize yourself with the requirements in the state in which you want to teach.

[Review teacher certification requirements by state.](#)

Many colleges and universities in New York offer programs that will allow you to teach in other states, internationally and within schools that do not require certification.

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

John Dewey, Philosopher, Social Reformer and Educator.

Teacher Certification Graduate Programs

Some students choose to pursue undergraduate teacher preparation programs. But, deciding to become a teacher after you've already earned your bachelor's degree is smart. You've worked hard throughout your undergraduate career, and now you're an expert in your discipline. You've also had time to think about what you want out of life, and you're ready to make a mature, informed decision about your future.

At the graduate level, you will focus on developing your teaching skills and discovering how to make an impact in the classroom. You'll receive hands-on teaching experience that will help you feel more comfortable working with students. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, you also have the potential to earn a higher salary with a graduate degree. In the end, choosing a graduate-level program will make you more confident, skilled, and knowledgeable when you begin your teaching career.

What are your options for certification?



New York State offers **TWO** types of teacher certification

INITIAL

Typically a one-year course of study that leads to an advanced certificate from a college or university and a recommendation for initial teacher certificate issued by the New York State Education Department allowing you to begin teaching in NYS public schools.

Teachers in New York State are initially certified and then after five years, they need professional certification which is renewable every five years.

PROFESSIONAL

You can receive teacher education from a college or university if you seek a **master's degree to advance your existing initial teacher certificate to a professional teaching certificate** in the same area of certification preparing you further to teach in NYS public schools.

New York State offers two types of teacher certification. The **Initial Certificate** is valid for your first five years of teaching and a **Professional Certificate** is renewable every five years.

New York State **INITIAL CERTIFICATION** Checklist

- Complete your bachelor's degree with 30 credit hours of coursework in the subject you want to teach.
- Apply and enroll in an approved New York State teacher education graduate program at a college or university.
- Create your TEACH account through the [New York State Education Department website](#) and apply for fingerprint clearance.
- Complete your graduate school coursework and participate in workshops, including the required Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), Mandated Reporter for Child Abuse and Neglect and Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) workshops.
- Take the New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCE), including the Educating All Students Test (EAS) and the Content Specialty Test (CST).
- After receiving your graduate degree, submit your application for an institutional recommendation for certification and your official transcripts to your college or university.

New York State **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION** Checklist

Students who complete a professional teacher education program are eligible to be considered for a recommendation for the professional certificate through the New York State Education Department Approved Teacher Preparation Program Certificate Progression pathway.

- In addition to a program recommendation, students must [submit a teaching experience form](#) to NYSED/TEACH of three years of teaching experience with one year of mentored experience.
- Apply for a professional certificate through the [NYSED Approved Teacher Preparation Program Certificate Progression pathway](#).

There are multiple pathways leading to certification in New York State. You can find more information on [New York State Education Department's website](#).

Are there teaching jobs available in New York?

You already know that you will thrive in the classroom. But maybe you're wondering if going back to school for another degree will pay off in the long run.

A promising outlook.

The [Take a Look at Teaching website](#) reports that more than one-third of New York's teachers are or will be eligible to retire. State officials estimate that school districts may need up to 180,000 teachers in the next decade. The need for kindergarten, elementary and high school teachers is expected to continue to grow between 2019 and 2029.

The U.S. Department of Education has officially designated teacher shortage areas throughout New York, including bilingual education, English as a second language, science, social studies, English language arts, literacy and world languages.

What does this mean for you?

Your teacher education program is worth your investment. With teacher shortages across New York State, opportunities will be waiting for you when you begin your career, especially if you want to teach in high-need areas.



Make a living doing what you love.

Teaching in New York is fruitful.

Teachers in New York State are among the highest-paid in the nation ([Education Week](#)).

On average, New York State teachers earn \$79,588 each year ([Rockefeller Institute of Government](#)). Median salaries can vary depending upon the regions in which teachers work in New York State.

Educational attainment is essential.

Compensation is consistently higher for teachers with graduate degrees. In 2017, teachers in Western New York with graduate degrees earned a median salary of \$55,281, while teachers with only bachelor's degrees earned \$45,092.



What's the next step to realize your dream of teaching in New York?

As someone with a curious mind and an ambitious spirit, you probably have several teacher education program options. And you understand the importance of finding an institution that perfectly meets your needs.

As you explore the possibilities for graduate education, consider a school that will enrich your understanding of learning and instruction while also providing unique hands-on experiences.

Consider an esteemed university that will allow you to earn a respected credential to reach your goals.

Take the next step towards your teaching career and check out the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education teacher education program opportunities.



Discover the University at Buffalo

The University at Buffalo (UB) is more than New York's largest public university or one of the nation's top 50 public institutions. It's a place where you will gain highly valued knowledge and learn how to take your academic and career choices to the next level.

With a focus on local-to-global impact, UB's Graduate School of Education (UB GSE) is an inclusive community engaged in ground-breaking research and teaching across education, human development and information science that improves educational, social and economic opportunities for individuals and communities.



 **University at Buffalo**
Graduate School of Education

At UB GSE, you will find a diverse and energetic community dedicated to transforming lives through teaching. You will meet fellow students who will welcome you and world-class faculty who will ensure that your coursework and experiences align with your goals. This community will support you as you become a leader prepared to address contemporary challenges in the field of education. Our Department of Learning and

Instruction educates prospective and practicing teachers through research-based approaches to challenging issues in teaching and learning. Through our teacher education programs, you can become an effective teacher in numerous fields, including high-need certification areas, such as biology, chemistry, English, French, math and Spanish, among others.

TEACHER EDUCATION

Programs @UBGSE

When you enroll in a UB GSE teacher education program, you take the first step towards shaping students' lives. You can choose from dozens of community-based teacher preparation programs that range from certificates leading to initial licensure and master's degrees leading to professional licensure.

Offered at the post-baccalaureate level, coursework at UB GSE is focused on the professional and social responsibilities of highly effective teachers. Hands-on experience gives you the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to make a difference in the lives of the students you will serve.

You will immerse yourself in school communities, where you will learn from students, master teachers and teacher education associates. You will also benefit from mentorship within a small cohort of peers who share and challenge each other's ideas and collectively address complex issues pertaining to education.

Application requirements and deadlines vary based on program. Learn about the application requirements for your program of interest on our [website](#).

EXPLORE THE MANY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT UB GSE

- [Bilingual Education](#)
- [Biology Education](#)
- [Chemistry Education](#)
- [Childhood Education](#)
- [Childhood Education with Bilingual Extension](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Early Childhood Education with Bilingual Extension](#)
- [Early Childhood/Childhood Education](#)
- [Earth Science Education](#)
- [English Education](#)
- [English for Speakers of Other Languages Education](#)
- [French Education](#)
- [Latin Education](#)
- [Literacy Education](#)
- [Mathematics Education](#)
- [Music Education](#)
- [Physics Education](#)
- [Social Studies Education](#)
- [Spanish Education](#)

Find the full listing of programs on our [website](#).



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION Programs @UBGSE

Do you already have your initial teaching certificate in New York?

Take the next step.

You're ready to take the next step in your teaching career and UBGSE offers a wide range of professional certification programs to help you get there.

If you're seeking professional teacher certification, now is the right time to apply if you:

- Seek a master's degree to advance your existing initial teacher certificate to a professional teacher certificate in the same area of certification
- Are interested in program options for literacy specialists (birth–grade 6 and grades 5–12)

Not sure if progressing to the professional teaching certificate is the right next move for you? Learn more about this process on [NYSUT's website](#).

EXPLORE THE MANY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT UB GSE

- [Biology Education](#)
- [Chemistry Education](#)
- [Childhood Education](#)
- [Childhood Education with an emphasis in Literacy](#)
- [Childhood Education with Bilingual Extension](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Early Childhood Education with Bilingual Extension](#)
- [Early Childhood/Childhood Education](#)
- [Earth Science Education](#)
- [English Education](#)
- [English for Speakers of Other Languages Education](#)
- [French Education](#)
- [Latin Education](#)
- [Mathematics Education](#)
- [Music Education](#)
- [Physics Education](#)
- [Social Studies Education](#)
- [Spanish Education](#)

TEACHER RESIDENCY Program @UBGSE

If you want to **make a positive impact in under-served communities in the City of Buffalo**, UB's Teacher Residency Program could be the perfect teacher certification program for you.

As a Teacher Resident, you will serve alongside an expert mentor in a co-teaching capacity for a full school year while simultaneously engaging in university coursework to ensure that you have the required knowledge and skills to be a highly

effective teacher. Participating in a year-long residency will give you a deeper understanding of the community in which you will teach, and will help you become a more effective, culturally responsive teacher. When you complete the program, you will be equipped with the skill-set necessary to thrive in meeting the varied needs of diverse students.

To reduce the financial burden of becoming a teacher, you will receive an \$18,000 stipend for living expenses and become eligible for additional scholarship support in exchange for a 3-year commitment to teach in Buffalo Public Schools. Existing student loan repayments may be deferred while you complete this program.

Find out more about the application requirements and deadlines on [our website](#).



IN ONE YEAR, EARN YOUR INITIAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION IN:

- [Biology Education](#)
- [Chemistry Education](#)
- [Childhood Education](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Earth Science Education](#)
- [English Education](#)
- [English for Speakers of Other Languages Education](#)
- [French Education](#)
- [Mathematics Education](#)
- [Physics Education](#)
- [Social Studies Education](#)



UB TEACH COMBINED DEGREE Program @UBGSE

Earn Your Bachelor's and Master's in Five Years

If you need to earn a bachelor's and a master's degree, the UB TEACH program will help you achieve your goals in only five years. This program takes a full year off the time needed to earn a bachelor's degree, saving students significant tuition while letting students take

advantage of UB's outstanding academic content areas.

When you join this program, you make a difference in the lives of young people by becoming an expert in your discipline and a skillful teacher. Program features include:

- Co-teaching alongside an expert teacher as part of a one-year teacher residency
- Benefiting from a teacher preparation program that is embedded in a world-class research institution
- Becoming eligible for New York State professional teaching certification in grades 5–12 upon completion of the program



UB TEACH BA / EDM PROGRAM DISCIPLINES

- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Classics: Latin](#)
- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [Geology](#)
- [Health and Human Services: Early Childhood/Childhood](#)
- [History](#)
- [Linguistics: English for Speakers of Other Languages](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Physics](#)
- [Physics/Chemistry](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Speech and Hearing: Childhood](#)
- [Speech and Hearing: English for Speakers of Other Languages](#)

Find the full listing of programs on our [website](#).

ONLINE PROGRAMS @UBGSE

ONLINE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- [English Education](#) (professional track)
- [Literacy Specialist Education](#) (initial/professional track)
- [Mathematics Education](#) (professional track)
- [Music Education](#) (professional track)

UB GSE recognizes the changing demands facing students today. Many of our students are full-time professionals with families and restricted schedules who need to learn on their own time, at their own pace. Our online programs are offered part-time to meet the demands of your busy life. If you would prefer to enroll in online coursework, there are options for you at UB GSE.

Our degree programs are extremely flexible. Students work with their advisors to choose from classes that focus on their content areas while also having a wide array of electives. We offer a selection of fully online advanced certificate and master's programs, including programs that lead to teacher certification in New York State. You will also find programs that give you the educational background you need to teach in another state or country.



Funding Your Education

Cost is an important factor when making decisions about continuing your education.

Explore the funding opportunities available to you to maximize financial assistance:

- [Federal TEACH grant](#)
- [UB scholarships and fellowships](#)
- [GSE scholarships](#)
- National awards and scholarships
- [UB Teacher Residency program stipend](#)
- [Federal work study program](#)
- [Federal loans \(FAFSA\)](#)



ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS



APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

The financial aid process for graduate students is similar to that of an undergraduate student. To be eligible for federal financial aid awards, you must complete a FAFSA application and indicate that you are seeking a graduate or professional degree. Be sure to apply for FAFSA as soon as you submit your application for your graduate program. You can find the application at fafsa.gov. Use code 002837.

New York State also offers financial aid for graduate study in New York, including the following selected programs:

- [Economically Disadvantaged First Professional Study \(EDPS\) Program](#)
- [Veterans Tuition Award](#)
- [Graduate Opportunity Program](#)

UB offers students an excellent education at a cost that is more affordable than most other major research universities. When cost is a deciding factor in continuing your education, it's hard to find a better value than UB GSE.

Estimated Total Cost for the initial/professional track of our Teacher Education Program: \$33,877*

**This is an estimate based on 2021 tuition and fee rates for students who are residents of New York State and complete the initial/professional program in four full-time semesters with part-time summer coursework. It may take more time to complete the program. This estimate does not include any other expenses, such as housing or books. Tuition and fees are subject to change at any time. For more detailed information, please visit [UB's Student Accounts website](#).*

Please note that initial-only or professional-only programs require less credits for completion and therefore cost less.

Opportunities You'll Only Find @ UB GSE





Internships at the Early Childhood Research Center

The [Early Childhood Research Center](#) (ECRC) is a Fisher-Price Endowed Center rooted in the belief that children learn through play.

As a student at UB GSE, you will have the opportunity to obtain an internship at the center, allowing for the development of your skills as a creative and thoughtful educator.

You will receive support and guidance while cultivating new skills and exploring the development of cognition, language, social connections and physical skills in the first few years of life.





Clinic-Based Experience in the Center for Literacy and Reading Instruction

CLaRI, the [Center for Literacy and Reading Instruction](#), is an established reading center at UB that has provided reading services to Western New York for over 50 years. The center has helped thousands of children with reading and writing needs by providing diagnostic and instructional services, such as after-school tutoring and Saturday One-To-One Reading and Writing Services.

Students in our literacy education programs participate in clinic-based experiences focusing on the diagnosis and reading remediation of struggling readers in the center.



Teaching Experience in the Gifted Math and Summer Math Programs

Founded in 1979, UB's [Gifted Math Program](#) provides skills for students in grades 7-12 who may pursue future university work in mathematics, other sciences, or the humanities. The program aims to capture the interest of young scholars at a critical time in their development.

The UB [Summer Math Program](#) is a free math camp open to girls in and around the Buffalo area who are entering grades 5 to 8. As a teacher education student at UB GSE, you can build upon your teaching experience in these unique math programs.

 **University at Buffalo**
Gifted Math Program
Graduate School of Education

 **University at Buffalo**
Summer Math Program
Graduate School of Education

BE INSPIRED

UB GSE alums reflect on their experiences and share important insights.



Kelly Hudock

After attending the University at Buffalo as an undergraduate student, Kelly Hudock knew she wanted to continue her education at the university. Now as an accomplished New York State Master Teacher, she looks back and is appreciative of the supportive campus community and wide range of student resources UB GSE offered her.

“I knew I could seek out tutoring. I knew the libraries. I knew I could find more support when I needed it. That felt comfortable for me.”

In addition to helpful campus services, Kelly also found the guidance and encouragement she needed from her professors.

“My favorite part of the program was the support of my professors. They served more as mentors than teachers. They were truly there, so that I could learn from the program and not just pass a class.”



Gary Crump

Gary Crump knew he wanted to become a social studies teacher after seeing young Black and Hispanic men sentenced to life in prison for crimes that could have been prevented with education.

“There’s got to be a way I can have an impact on young men of color.”

As Crump began looking into a new career, he discovered and applied to UB’s Teacher Residency Program. During his work as a resident at South Park High School, he collaborated with two mentor teachers who worked with him to build on his previous volunteer experience in the South Bronx where he helped students pass their high school equivalency exams.

“This is where a lot of my experience and my passion developed, in terms of my ability to work effectively with young people, particularly young people of color.”



Matthew Miller

Matthew Miller, a social studies teacher in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, decided to become a teacher because he wanted a positive and meaningful career.

“During my junior year, I was interested in a career in finance. I remember attending a presentation on mortgage derivatives... I left that day thinking that it all seemed sketchy.”

When he realized that these mortgage lending practices helped contribute to the Great Recession, he knew he wanted to pursue a career in teaching instead.

“To me, teaching is a much more positive career. Between the fall and spring semesters of my senior year, I visited a few graduate schools in Buffalo. The chair of the Department of Learning and Instruction dropped everything and spent an hour of unscheduled time talking to me and making me feel incredibly welcome. I knew that GSE was the place for me.”

FAQ

Can I use hours from my teaching job to count for clinical hours?

Students cannot use hours from previous teaching jobs to count for state-mandated clinical hours unless the student tries to go through the Individual Evaluation Pathway, rather than a university program.

Can I work full-time and enroll in a teacher certification program full-time?

We do not recommend working full-time while being enrolled in a teacher education program full-time because our programs require field experience and supervised teaching.

Does the recommendation for certification ever expire?

In short, our recommendation is good forever. Once a student has at least three years of teaching experience, there's a form that the district/school will submit to the state on the student's behalf. From there, a student can apply for the professional certificate.

Am I too old to become a teacher?

No! Students of all ages enroll in teacher education programs. Many students have already had successful careers in other fields before pursuing a teaching career. It's never too late.

Do I have to take the GRE?

No. In 2021, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law a revision to SUNY admission requirements for graduate-level teacher and educational leader programs removing the requirement for a minimum score on the graduate record examination or similar testing measurement. As a result, GSE no longer requires standardized tests for master's, doctoral or teacher education programs.



**Your journey
to becoming
a teacher
starts today.**

University at Buffalo

Graduate School of Education
Admission Office

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RESOURCES

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