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# **Handbook of Graduate Study, Department of Learning and Instruction**

**Social Studies Education**

**Graduate School of Education**

**University at Buffalo**

**State University of New York**

**2018- 2019**

**While this handbook has been developed to assist you throughout your academic program, it does not constitute the whole of UB or GSE policies concerning students. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of and comply with all policies, procedures and deadlines.**

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**Introduction**

GSE and this department supports and is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where diverse perspectives are recognized, respected, and seen as a source of strength. Further, we wish to affirm our commitment to creating and maintaining a positive, welcoming, and inclusive environment that embraces diversity and strives to eliminate barriers to access, advancement, and full participation on the basis of race, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or veteran status for student, faculty, and staff.

**Department of Learning and Instruction**

***Julie Gorlewski, CHAIR***

**Purpose of Handbook.** This handbook was established to provide you with important information regarding university and department policies and procedures, your responsibilities, obligations and expectations as a student at UB, and UB services and facilities available to you.

**Welcome.** The Department of Learning and Instruction (LAI) provides quality professional education for graduate students pursuing educational careers through the University’s Teacher Education Program, Certificates of Advanced Study, and Certification Master’s and Non-certification Master’s study programs. Certification Tracks of Initial-Only, Initial/Professional, and Professional are available with specified content areas of Early Childhood and/or Childhood, English, English for speakers of other languages, Languages other than English, Literacy Specialist, Mathematics, Music, Science, and Social Studies with an option of in-person, online-only, or blended study. In addition, the department offers an undergraduate minor and combined programs through its UBTeach Initiative.

***Detailed information on your program of interest can be found on page 12 of this handbook.***

**Department Vision: Transforming Lives Through Critical Learning**

We take education to be a vital aspect of the transmission, construction, and transformation of culture and society. As researchers, teachers, and mentors, we prepare professional educators and scholars for colleges and universities as well as K-12 schools and educational agencies. Our work is distinguished by its commitment to multiple literacies and perspectives, to sociocultural understanding, and to social justice.

**Department Mission**

Located in a major research university in an urban setting, the promise of our mission differs radically from similar programs in most departments or schools in colleges and state universities. While we, too, prepare professionals for all roles throughout the K-16 education system, our real impact comes through the research and scholarship that informs our doctoral and professional education programs and contributes to creative, thoughtful, and informed practice.

**LAI Faculty**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CISL PhD**  [**Richard Lamb**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=dlbruce), Program Director  [Sam Abramovich](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=samuelab)  [Maureen Boyd](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mpboyd)  [David Bruce](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=dlbruce)  [Claire Cameron](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=cecamero)  [Yunjeong Chang](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ychang28)  [Elizabeth Etopio](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=etopio)  [Julie Gorlweski](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jgorlews)  [Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)  [Sunha Kim](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sunhakim)  [Xiufeng Liu](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=xliu5)  [Mary McVee](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mcvee)  [Deborah Moore-Russo](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=dam29)  [Ryan Rish](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ryanrish)  [Sarah A. Robert](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sarah)  [Maria Runfola](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=runfola)  [Alexandra Schindel](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=aedimick)  [Lynn Shanahan](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ls34)  [Ji-Won Son](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jiwonson)  [Noemi Waight](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=nwaight)  [X. Christine Wang](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=wangxc)  [Randy Yerrick](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ryerrick) | **Literacy Ed**  [**Mary McVee**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mcvee)**,** Program Director  [Maureen Boyd](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mpboyd)  [Ashlee Campbell](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ashleeeb)  [Lynn Shanahan](https://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ls34)  Jennifer Schiller  Brenna Towle  Tyler Rinker  Caroline Flury-Kashmanian |
| **College Teaching**  [**Julie Gorlewski**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jgorlews)**,** Program Director | **Math Ed**  [**Ji Won Son**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jiwonson)**,** Program Director  [Deborah Moore-Russo](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=dam29)  Jeri Dilletti  Amber Powell  Gerald Rising  Roger Wolbert  Patricia Doyle  Kristi Martin |
| **Teaching and Leading for Diversity**  [**Sarah A. Robert**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sarah)**,** Program Director  [Alexa Schindel](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=aedimick%E2%80%8B)  [Mary McVee](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mcvee)  [Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)  [Randy Yerrick](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ryerrick)  [Sharon Raimondi](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=raimondi) | **Music Ed**  [**Maria Runfola**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=runfola)**,** Program Director  [Elisabeth Etopio](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=etopio)  Terry Bacon, Adjunct  Gregory Chase, Adjunct  James Jordan, Adjunct  Richard Victor, Adjunct  Roberta Yee, Adjunct |
| **Early Childhood/Childhood**  [**Claire Cameron**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=cecamero)**,** Program Director  Christine Wang, ECRC Director  Lilliam Malave  [Corinne Eggleston](http://ecrc.buffalo.edu/about/people-staff.php), ECRC Associate Director  [Keely Benson](http://ecrc.buffalo.edu/about/people-staff.php), ECRC Curriculum Coordinator  [Maureen Boyd](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=mpboyd)  [Ashlee Campbell](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ashleeeb) | **Science Ed**  [**Noemi Waight**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=nwaight)**,** Program Director  [Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)  [Xiufeng Liu](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=xliu5)  [Alexa Schindel](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=aedimick%E2%80%8B)  [Randy Yerrick](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ryerrick)  Michelle Eades-Baird  Bhawna Chowdhary  Melinda Whitford |
| **EdD, TPED**  **TBD,**  Program Director | **Science and the Public**  [**Julie Gorlewski**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jgorlews)**,** Program Director  Richard Lamb |
| **English Ed**  [**David Bruce**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=dlbruce)**,** Program Director  [Julie Gorlewski](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jgorlews)  [Ryan Rish](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ryanrish)  Nichole Barrett  Paul Spitale  Charles Gonzalez  Sylvia Smyntek-Gworek | **Social Studies Ed**  [**Sarah A. Robert**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sarah)**,** Program Director  [Alexa Schindel](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=aedimick%E2%80%8B)  [Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)  Anthony L. White, III  Keith Hughes  Rachael K. Short  Naomi Wiseman  Song Rio  Anne E. Martell  Adam D.J. Huck  Ebtssam Alqhtani |
| **Education Studies** (non cert)  [Ashlee Campbell](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ashleeeb) | **Special Education PhD**  **Jointly Operated with Department of Exceptional Education, Buffalo State**  [**Sharon Raimondi**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=raimondi)**,** Program Director  [Claire Cameron](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=cecamero)  [Shannon Budin](mailto:gormlese@buffalostate.edu), Buffalo State  [Gliset Colon](mailto:colong@buffalostate.edu),Buffalo State  Coordinator of Bilingual Education  [Lawrence Maheady](mailto:maheadlj@buffalostate.edu), Buffalo State  Endowed Chair in Special Education  [Lisa Rafferty](about:blank), Buffalo State  [Raquel Schmidt](mailto:schmidrj@buffalostate.edu), Buffalo State  Chair, Department of Exceptional Education  [Awilda Ramos-Zagarrigo,](mailto:ramosza@buffalostate.edu) Buffalo State  Director of TESOL |
| **Education & Technology**  [**Richard Lamb**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=rllamb)**,** Program Director  [Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)  [Noemi Waight](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=nwaight) | **TESOL**  [**Liliam Malave**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=malave)**,** Program Director  [Janina Brutt-Griffler](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=bruttg), faculty  [Erin Kearney](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ekearney), faculty  [Lynne Yang](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=lryang), faculty |
| **ESOL**  [**Lilliam Malave**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=malave)**,** Program Director  [Janina Brutt-Griffler](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=bruttg), faculty  [Erin Kearney](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ekearney), faculty  [Lynne Yang](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=lryang), faculty | **Undergraduate Minor**  [**Elisabeth Etopio**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=etopio)**,** Program Director  [Sarah A. Robert](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sarah) |
| [**Gifted Ed**](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/academics/ac/gifted-ed.html)  [**Sharon Raimondi**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=raimondi)**,** Program Director  [Ji-Won Son](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=jiwonson)  [Rosemary Callard-Szulgit](mailto:rc68@buffalo.edu), adjunct faculty  [Gayle Angert](mailto:gayleang@buffalo.edu) , adjunct faculty | **Bilingual,** Program Director  [**Lilliam Malave**](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=malave)**,** Program Director  [Janina Brutt-Griffler](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=bruttg), faculty  [Erin Kearney](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=ekearney), faculty  [Lynne Yang](http://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=lryang), faculty |
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**LAI Staff**

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| **Assistant to the Chair**  **Liz Schaal**  [eamanuel@buffalo.edu](mailto:eamanuel@buffalo.edu) 716-645-4038 | **Department Secretary**  **Jen Conley**  [jjandrze@buffalo.edu](mailto:jjandrze@buffalo.edu)  716-645-4039 |
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| **Director, Fisher-Price Early Childhood Research Center**  **Christine X. Wang**  [wangxc@buffalo.edu](mailto:wangxc@buffalo.edu) 716-645-4056 |  |

**Overview of Graduate Programs**

The Department of LAI offers a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs: Master of Education degrees leading to New York State (NYS) certification, Master of Education degrees that do not lead to certification and Advanced Certificates. Within the framework approved by department faculty and registered with the New York State Education Department (NYSED), graduate programs are designed to respond to current needs in education and to students' career goals and professional preparation. The programs consist of various learning opportunities: required course work; experiential learning; and research projects.

The LAI department faculty and student body works continuously to empower and support diverse voices and cultures to challenge outdated presumptions and set a new course for education that reflects our pluralist democracy. Our immersive and engaging learning community welcomes into our academic community, faculty, staff, and students from globally represented cultural heritages and traditions.

All licensure programs offered by the Department of Learning and Instruction were accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). Currently, we are pursuing accreditation through the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP).

#### **General Requirements for Admissions to Master's degree programs in LAI**

Each applicant must submit an application to the Department of Learning and Instruction, which must include a letter stating the applicant's academic background detailing reasons their inclinations toward advanced study.

International applicants must fulfill the University's [English Proficiency Requirement](https://www.buffalo.edu/internationaladmissions/graduate-english-waiver.html) as described under the University’s International Admissions policy. [International student resources](https://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/admission/international.html) for the LAI Department, along with some [frequently asked question](https://www.buffalo.edu/international-student-services/for-new-students/frequently-asked-questions.html) can be found using the links provided.

***Detailed information on your program of interest can be found on page 12 of this handbook.***

*Programs may specify additional requirements for consideration for admission such as a sample of an applicant's writing or an interview.*

**Program and Degree Policies**

The department abides by the established student advisement, candidacy, continuous registration, readmission, degree conferral timetable, qualifying exams, thesis dissertation and placement policies. For details regarding these policies use this [link.](http://ed.buffalo.edu/current-students/elp-students/program-and-degree-policies.html)

## **Academic Standards Review**

In order to sustain academic standards and eligibility for continued enrollment, financial aid, and participation in university activities, the faculty of the department of Learning and Instruction regularly reviews academic records of all graduate students. Essentially, this review addresses the quality of students’ studies as measured by the student course grades.

Every student's academic progress is reviewed at the end of each semester.

### **Academic Good Standing**

A student is in good academic standing if the student’s cumulative UB graduate grade point average (GPA) is a 3.0 or greater.

### **Academic Warning**

Students receive an academic warning if their cumulative UB GPA is less than a 3.0 An academic warning is not be noted on the student’s official transcript, however it will be disclosed on the student’s departmental record.

### **Academic Probation**

When students are on academic probation, their UB GPA is less than 3.0 and they are considered to not be in good academic standing. A student is on academic probation, but not in academic good standing if his/her cumulative UB GPA is less than 3.0. Students can request to have UB summer or winter session grades evaluated as part of reconsideration of their probationary or dismissal status.

If a student is on academic probation (s)he cannot participate in university activities. In addition, students on academic probation will have to complete, with an academic advisor, a realistic academic strategy to complete further registration activity.

**Academic probation is not noted on a student’s official transcript however it will be disclosed on the student’s record.**

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### **Academic Dismissal**

Students at UB who have been enrolled for two or more semesters and have earned a cumulative UB GPA of less than 2.0 will be dismissed from their program and the university regardless of their most recent semester GPA.

All dismissed students will receive official notification via U.S. mail. as well as through their UB email account. All further fall or spring semester registration access will be unavailable, however, dismissed students may register for or may keep their enrollment appointments for summer or winter sessions (e.g., students dismissed in December 2018 are able to enroll in winter 2019 courses).

Dismissed students may register as a non-degree students for enrollment in winter or summer sessions upon approval of their academic advisor. Students can apply for readmission one academic year after their dismissal (e.g., students dismissed after spring 2018 can apply for re-admittance for fall 2019).

Students may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of Graduate School of Education during a time specified in the dismissal letter. A consultation with an advisor is a requirement of the appeal process. If an appeal is granted, an outline of the terms and conditions of continued study will accompany the letter informing the student their appeal was successful.

Academic dismissal is noted on a student’s official transcript, and will be disclosed on the student’s record.

**The Role of the Academic Advisor**

Students are assigned an academic advisor once they have been admitted to the program. Students will consult with their academic advisors for guidance related to their program of study, course selection, and all other academic matters. Academic Advisors are also expected to review and sign documents, for example, the application to candidacy.

**Social Studies Education Faculty Members**

[Sarah A. Robert](https://ed.buffalo.edu/about/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sarah)**,** Program Director

[Alexa Schindel](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=aedimick%E2%80%8B)

[Sameer Honwad](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/directory/faculty/profile.html?uid=sameerho)

Anthony L. White, III

Keith Hughes

Rachael K. Short

Naomi Wiseman

Song Rio

Anne E. Martell

Adam D.J. Huck

Ebtssam Alqhtani

**Department Student Organizations**

Use this link for information on Student Organizations within the Department of Learning and Instruction, Graduate Student Association (LAI-GSA)

**Alumni Association**

Use this [link](https://ed.buffalo.edu/alumni.html) for information on the GSE Alumni Association. While general gifts may be given to the school, it also is possible to restrict your donations to support specific programs or projects within GSE.

**Teacher Education Information**

The Teacher Education Institute (TEI) administers the clinical components for all initial and initial/professional certification programs. For further detail on expectations for field experience and student teaching, please refer to the [Guide to Field Experience and Student Teaching](http://ed.buffalo.edu/content/dam/ed/tei/docs/Field-Experience-Student-Teaching-Guide.pdf).

TEI also provides institutional recommendations for students who have completed a licensure program (i.e. initial, initial/professional, professional, Gifted, and Literacy). For further information on applying for your teacher certification please review the relevant links on the TEI certification page: <http://ed.buffalo.edu/tei/certification/apply.html>

For further information regarding teacher education certification requirements, please contact the Teacher Education Institute at (716) 645-2461 or [ubtei@buffalo.edu](mailto:ubtei@buffalo.edu)

**The Master’s (Ed.M.) Degree**

**General Introduction and Information**

The UB master’s program in social studies education guides you to critically examine historical and contemporary issues in the field as a foundation for learning to build student-centered and inquiry-focused curriculum. You also choose whether to develop your expertise in the area of technology, literacy, content knowledge, writing or special education/gifted learners to enhance your teaching.

**Programs and Requirements**

The UB Social Studies Education Program prepares students for New York State Secondary-level (grades 7-12) Certification with an optional 5th-6th grade extension. There are two certification levels: Initial and Professional.

Program requirements, academic credentials granted, certificate options, credits required for completion, time to completion, experiential contact hours, career opportunities, and application deadlines are available at the links below:

* [**Initial Certification only**](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/academics/teacher-ed/social-studies.html)

This program is for you if you are currently teaching or intend to teach in secondary schools and want to prepare for New York State initial certification.

* [**Ed.M. plus Initial and Professional Certification with 5th-6th grade extension**](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/academics/teacher-ed/social-studies.initial-professional.html)

This program is for you if you are currently teaching or intend to teach in secondary schools and want to prepare for New York State initial and professional certification.

* [**Ed.M. plus Professional Certification only**](http://ed.buffalo.edu/teaching/academics/teacher-ed/social-studies.professional.html)

This program is for you if you are currently teaching in secondary schools with New York State Initial Certification for Social Studies and you wish to earn a Master’s in Social Studies Education plus New York State Professional Certification.

**Capstone Event**

All Master’s Programs culminate with a Capstone Event. There are four options: a Comprehensive Exam; a Portfolio; a Project; or a Thesis. Each is described below.

**Objectives**

Students who complete the Social Studies Education Capstone Event satisfactorily will have demonstrated the capacity to:

## Analyze and describe trends and persistent issues in curriculum and instruction, generally, and the Social Studies field, specifically;

## To take a position on trends and issues and support the position with sound reasoning and evidence;

## Act as a critical reader of relevant research;

## Select and organize substantive historical and social science knowledge in ways that are conducive to meaningful student learning, constructive teaching and learning of knowledge;

## Incorporate multiple perspectives in their teaching and curriculum representing differing experiences and interpretations. In other words, demonstrate how history and social theory encompass differing perspectives and interpretations, changing over time, and the implications for Social Studies and for you.

**Comprehensive Exam**

A comprehensive exam is administered centrally by the LAI main office in the Fall and Spring. You will receive emails as to when it is offered and advising you when and how to register for the exam. It is your responsibility to sign up for the comprehensive exam. There is no summer exam offered to Social Studies Education students at this time.

During your graduate studies, you can expect continuous and professional advising by program faculty and support from professional staff. Through engagement in the classroom and during advising sessions, you and your advisor will identify your strengths, areas in need of further development and, related to the comprehensive exam, your teaching/learning interests. It is from this engagement that faculty will select a comprehensive exam question for you.

The comprehensive exam is a take-home, open book exam. You will refer to your coursework and conduct independent research on the topic. You will prepare a research-based paper in ten days. A rubric is available to guide the development of your paper and for assessment.

**Portfolio**

“A student who completes the master’s portfolio option is required to compile a set of materials that summarizes and displays the student’s knowledge, skills, and problem-solving capabilities within their discipline as well as his/her ability to design, manage, operate, and report on topics typically required for professional employment. While the project option requires the student to research one specific topic, the portfolio option emphasizes the student’s competence across several areas within his/her discipline. The materials in the portfolio must be assembled and presented in a professional manner. All elements of the portfolio must be organized cohesively and be self-explanatory.

The portfolio cannot be solely comprised of a student’s previous work/coursework (e.g., course projects/papers). While such materials could comprise elements of the portfolio, the portfolio must also contain new and additional substantive work that would satisfy the expectations of another capstone option (e.g., thesis, project).” ([*UB Graduate School Policies and Procedures: A Manual for Graduate Students and Advisors* 2013-14, p. 23](http://grad.buffalo.edu/study/progress/policies.html#portfoliooption))

**Project**

“The focus of the research for a master's project is generally more applied than that for a thesis, with the student often defining a problem and developing a solution for it. The project may be a scholarly undertaking that results in a tangible outcome - a photo exhibit, a performance piece, a business plan, a technical report, a computer program, - that does not fit neatly within the framework of a traditional scholarly thesis paper. However, the final project should be accompanied by a paper written by the student that introduces, analyzes, and contextualizes the project, and demonstrates the student's familiarity with the relevant literature of the field. A master's project/paper receives final approval at the department level.” *(*[*From the Graduate School Web site.*](about:blank)*)*

**Differences between a Master's Thesis and a Master's Project**

“Differences between a thesis and a project are generally related to the extent and focus of the research, the formatting of the finished written product, the requirement to give an oral defense of the work, and the final approval of the finished product.

A thesis is typically longer than a project and is a well-organized, thoroughly documented scholarly paper, detailing research purpose, methods, results, analyses, and conclusions. Research for a thesis maybe more extensive than research for a project in terms of the amount required, but this varies with the individual and the discipline. While a thesis must be defended orally in a public forum, a project need not be so defended unless the department requires such a defense. Whereas a master's project only needs approval at the department level, a master's thesis must receive final approval from the Graduate School, and will be kept in perpetuity in the University's thesis/dissertation database within the Library.”

**Academic Requirements**

See information for Academic Requirements under “Credit Hours & Master Course Work Requirements.

**International Students Information**

Questions and concerns related to International Student Services can be obtained through the International Student Services Office. The link for this resource is <http://www.buffalo.edu/international-student-services.html>

**Online Education**

Courses within this program are offered online and face to face.

# **Degree Conferral**

# **Candidacy**

Apply for Graduation via the HUB Student Center.

Notify the University of your expected Conferral (graduation) date via the HUB Student Center. The “apply for graduation” link is on the “My Academics” tab.

Note: Should you miss the deadline, you will need to apply for the next conferral (graduation) date AND register for at least one credit hour in the semester you will graduate (maintain continuous registration policy).

# UB confers degrees three times a year:

## **Application Deadlines**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Graduation Term | Application Deadline | Conferral Date |
| Fall | October 15 | February 1 |
| Spring | February 22 | June 1 |
| Summer | July 15 | September 1 |

Use this [link](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degreeconferral.php) for more information about degree conferral.

Commencement information can be found at this [link](https://www.buffalo.edu/commencement.html).

**Details regarding various tasks that relate to graduation can be found at the following links:**

* [Apply for Graduation: A Must Do, and Degree Checkout Status](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#apply)
* [Double Degree Candidates (i.e. BS and BA, two degrees awarded at one time)](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#double)
* [Follow Up With Advisement](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#advisement)
* [Review Your Transcript(s)](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#transcript)
* [Confirm Your Grades](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#grades)
* [Pay Outstanding Bills](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#bills)
* [Verify Your Name and Address](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#verify)
* [Sign Up For Your Commencement Ceremony](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#ceremony)
* [Check-in with Career Services & Take the Undergraduate Senior Exit Survey](https://registrar.buffalo.edu/degrees/degrees/index.php#career-services)

**Campus Resources and Services**

**a.   a. Student Advisement**

Upon acceptance into a program, you will be assigned an adviser who will develop a tentative plan of study based on your career goals, experiences and needs. A student has the right to change advisers for any number of reasons including interest in another faculty member’s research

**b. Office locations**

The LAI Main Office is on the 5th Floor of Baldy Hall; the Teacher Education Institute is on the 3rd floor of Baldy Hall in room 375.

**c. UB Libraries**

There are multiple libraries available on campus for a complete listing please see the following link: <https://library.buffalo.edu/>.

However, two libraries will be of interest to music education students: The graduate library known as [Lockwood Memorial Library](https://library.buffalo.edu/lml/) and the [Music Library](https://library.buffalo.edu/music/) in Baird Hall.

**d. UB Information Technology**

UB offers students a wide range of IT services. Complete information, including free software available to UB students, is found at the following link: <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit.html>.

**e. UB Student Services**

For information regarding available student services, use the following link: [**https://1capen.buffalo.edu/**](https://1capen.buffalo.edu/).

**University Policy and Procedures**

**For a complete list of University Policies and Procedures please see the following websites:**

**Student Code of Conduct:** <http://www.buffalo.edu/content/dam/www/studentlife/units/uls/student-conduct/ub-student-code-of-conduct.pdf>

**Information Technology Polices:**

<https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/information_technology%20policies.html>

**Academic Integrity:**

<https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/integrity.html>

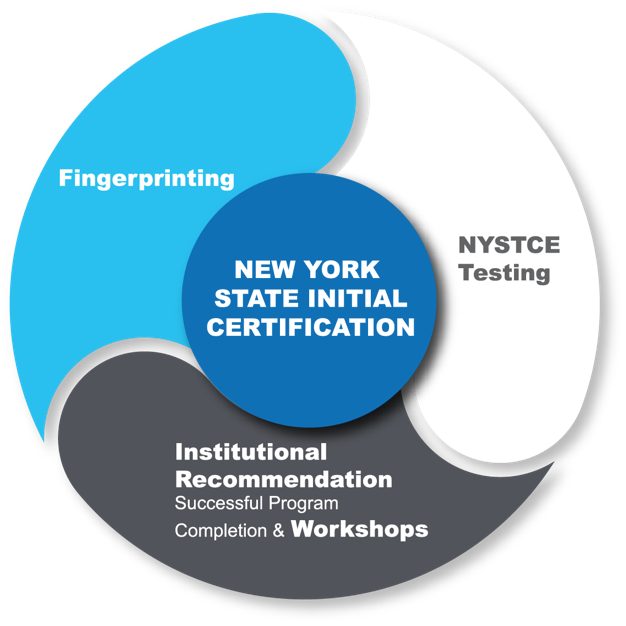
All policy and procedures for graduate study at UB can be found in the [Graduate School Policy Library](https://grad.buffalo.edu/succeed/current-students/policy-library.university-policies.html). By using this link you will be sure to find the most up to date information.

The LAI Department reserves the right to amend, alter, and update the policies, procedures, or other information provided in this handbook as needed. Changes, revisions, and amendments to the material in this handbook will be published on the LAI Department website and in future editions of the handbook.

**Appendix A**

**Requirements for Initial Teacher Certification**

There are numerous pathways to becoming a certified teacher in New York State. As a student in this program, you will be eligible to receive initial certification through an Approved Teacher Preparation Program. In addition to program completion, there are a number of requirements of which you should be aware and for which you should assume responsibility.

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**Fingerprinting**

All fingerprinting required by the Education Department for certification or employment in schools must be scheduled with MorphoTrust. Information is available at:<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tsei/ospra>

Students must complete fingerprinting prior to enrollment in school - based clinical experiences (i.e. LAI 667: Field Experience).

**Workshops**

All applicants for initial teacher certification in New York State must complete the following workshops. Proof of workshop completion is required to be submitted to TEI as a part of LAI 667: Field Experience.

**·**  [**Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/dasa-applicant.html): The DASA workshop is composed of six hours of coursework and training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention. Training is available through the Alberti Center at UB. Applicants can register for the workshop at http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter/dignity. Information about additional NYSED-approved providers can be found at http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/dasa-applicant.html.

**·**  [**Mandated Reporter for Child Abuse and Neglect**](http://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/TrainingCourses.aspx): All applicants for certification are required to complete two hours of training regarding the identification and reporting of suspected child abuse and maltreatment. More information and a list of providers can be found at [http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/ca.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/ca.html%20).

**·**  [**Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE)**](http://www.violenceworkshop.com/): All applicants for certification must complete two hours of training in school violence prevention and intervention. Information and a list of providers can be found at [http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/save.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/save.html%20).

**New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCE)**

In order to be issued a New York State initial teacher certificate, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires certificate applicants to take and pass a set of [NYSTCE](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/).

**·**  [**Educating All Students Test (EAS)**](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NY201_TestPage.html): The EAS consists of selected-response items and constructed-response items. Each constructed-response item will share scenario-based stimulus material with several selected-response items. This exam aims to assess the professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills necessary to teach all students effectively in New York State public schools.

**·**  [**Content Specialty Test (CST)**](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html): The CST is certification area-specific and aims to assess your content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge.

NYSED is in the process of revising the CST’s. All new exams are now operational with the exception of the sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics), which will be operational in the Fall of 2018, and the Fine Arts (Dance, Music, Theater and Visual Arts), date still to be determined.

Those who wish to be certified in both Early Childhood and Childhood Education must take and pass a total of 5 sections of the Multi-Subject Exams for Early Childhood and Childhood. The Multi-Subject Tests contains three parts. Applicants must complete Sections 1 and 2 of both exams and Section 3 of just one of the exams.

* + - Part One: Literacy and English Language Arts - Early Childhood
    - Part One: Literacy and English Language Arts - Childhood
    - Part Two: Mathematics - Early Childhood
    - Part Two: Mathematics - Childhood
    - Part Three: Arts and Sciences - Early Childhood OR Childhood

Candidates must successfully pass all parts of the Multi-Subject Test in order to be certified. Candidates may register to take all parts at the same time (which may be less expensive) or may register to take each part separately.

* + Bilingual Education Assessment (BEA)
    - Only applicable to those seeking the bilingual extension
    - The BEA aims to assess knowledge of foundations of bilingual education as well as language comprehension and expression.

* [**Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA)**](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamedtpa.html): The edTPA is completed concurrently with student teaching and aims to assess knowledge and skills related to planning, instruction and assessment through extensive written commentary and sample video recording of your practice.

In April 2014, the Board of Regents adopted a “safety net” that provides an option for those who many not pass the edTPA on their first attempt (<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsedtpa.html>); however, our goal is for all students to pass the edTPA. More information will be provided as part of the Field Experience course, LAI 667, and the Seminar in Teaching course, LAI 674.

For edTPA safety net measures, please visit:<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsedtpa.html>

**Institutional Recommendation**

Upon successful completion of the certification program, applicants are eligible to be considered for a UB recommendation for an initial teacher certificate. This recommendation verifies that the candidate has completed a New York State registered program and provides evidence that they have completed the required workshops. Applications for recommendations can be found at

<http://ed.buffalo.edu/tei/certification>.

Candidates seeking initial certification OR initial / professional certification will complete the Initial Teacher Certificate application, provide an official transcript, as well as documentation of completion of the three required workshops.