Educational Foundations
+ School of Education

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The graduate program in educational foundations provides an ideal environment for further learning for those who are interested in educational theory, history and psychology.

M.A.:
The Master of Arts degree program provides an ideal environment for those individuals who are interested in expanding their knowledge of educational theory, history and philosophy of education, and educational psychology. The degree requires the completion of 32 credit hours of coursework, an oral examination, and a theme paper.

At the end of the program, students, in consultation with their advisor, will prepare a theme paper on a topic related to their coursework and complete a one-hour oral examination based on the theme paper and completed coursework.

Ed.D.:
The Doctor of Education degree program is intended to prepare professionals for leadership positions in educational institutions through a practical, problem-oriented program, shaped largely by career intentions that do not call for a strong research emphasis. The degree requires the completion of 38 credit hours of coursework, including two successive semesters of residency, which are arranged with the advisor on a contract basis. Additional requirements include: four credit hours of project guidance, a comprehensive written examination, an oral examination/proposal defense and a doctoral project.

Ph.D.:
The Doctor of Philosophy degree emphasizes the tools of research and the interplay of theory and practice in education. The degree requires the completion of 30 credit hours of coursework, 12 hours of dissertation research, a comprehensive written examination, an oral examination/proposal defense, and a public presentation and defense of the dissertation.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.)
• Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE or other applicable graduate entry exam
• Résumé
• Professional goal statement
• TOEFL or IELTS required for all international students
• SLU writing exam required for all international students upon admission

M.A.: Graduate students wishing to enter these programs must have completed 18 credit hours of upper division undergraduate coursework in education or related areas approved by the School of Education.

Ed.D. and Ph.D.:
Graduate students wishing to enter these programs must have a master’s degree in education or a related field and complete six credit hours of graduate research coursework as a prerequisite for the doctoral program. If the student does not have some or all of these credit hours, he or she may take these hours during the doctoral program in addition to the program coursework.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

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Ed.D. and Ph.D.:
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FACULTY ///

Lauren Arend, Ph.D.: Early childhood education, educational leadership, educational research

Jennifer Buehler, Ph.D.: School culture and teacher education in urban and under-resourced schools, the practice of ethnography, discourse analysis, young adult literature, teacher research

Mary M. Chittooran, Ph.D., NCSP: Research with children, cultural competence, professional ethics, international students, women in higher education

Alexander Cuenca, Ph.D.: Social studies teaching and learning, education for democracy, teacher education, student teaching, self-study methodology

Tony DeCesare, Ph.D.: Philosophy of education, democratic education, educational equality, capabilities approach

Nikki Murdick, Ph.D.: Issues related to special education law, methods for successful inclusion in elementary and secondary schools, educational impact of rare genetic syndromes

Joseph Nichols, Ph.D.: Social studies education, teacher education assessment, education policy and the politics of education, schooling in a global society, democracy and democratic theory, educational research

Ronald W. Rebore, Ph.D.: Ethics of leadership, human resources administration, human relations, spirituality of leadership, international programs, special education administration

Jennifer Roberts, Ph.D.: Comparative and international education, gender and education, immigrant education

In the spirit of the Jesuit tradition of education, the educational foundations program is committed to providing students with:

- Individualized academic experiences that focus on their specific content area of intellectual interest.
- In-depth preparation in both pedagogical and research skills to apply theory to practice.
- Opportunities to address social and moral issues related to education, especially in urban settings.

Career Paths
Possible career paths include curriculum coordinator, teacher educator, educational outreach coordinator, nonprofit specialist, special educator and adult educator.

Students may apply for graduate assistantships. Assistantship information and application forms are available on the School of Education webpage, in the financial aid section. Please contact student financial services for more information on financial aid.