

Teacher Education

Overview of the Jefferson College Teacher Education Program and the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)

The **Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)** is a pre-professional statewide degree program designed to prepare students for transfer into a four-year teacher education program. Jefferson College's AAT is comprised of 42 credit hours of general education, a 13-credit hour teacher education core, the first year experience requirement, a minimum of six additional credit hours in electives, and passing the Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA).



Teacher Education Courses

**Denotes class requires students to complete field experiences in schools*

***Exploring the Field of Education (EDU105)** serves as the formal entrance into the AAT degree program. After students have successfully completed this course and ENG 101, they may register for additional education courses. This course is an introduction to the field of education and to certification requirements. Students explore state standards for teachers and for P-12 students. Each student must complete a background check that includes records from both the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the FBI and receive clearance prior to entering any P-12 school to begin field experiences. (1 credit hour)

Educational Technology (EDU205) helps students learn how to integrate instructional technology into P-12 classrooms. Students will study a variety of software programs, presentation technology, telecommunication tools, and assistive technology. The focus will also be on social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology. (3 credit hours)

***Foundations of Education in a Diverse Society (EDU210)** is designed to examine educational practice from diverse historical, philosophical, sociological, economic, and legal perspectives. The course will address issues of educational equity, sociocultural influences on teaching and learning, and how teachers and schools can contribute to interpersonal and intercultural understanding and respect, social justice, and democratic citizenship. Students will explore the nature of school environments, the fundamental goals of education in the American public school, English Language Learners, the relationship between school and a diverse society, the organization of school curricula, and characteristics of effective schools and instruction in grades P-12. (3 credit hours)

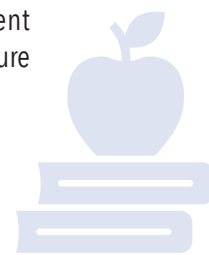
Educational Psychology (EDU225) is designed to help students relate theories and principles of educational psychology to teaching, learning, and assessment. This course focuses on the diversity of learners and learning processes, as well as teacher characteristics, classroom strategies, and data analysis in P-12 classrooms. Appropriate strategies for increasing motivation, multi-dimensional development, and academic achievement for all learners are introduced. (3 credit hours)

***Teaching Profession with Field Experience (EDU230)** serves as the capstone course for the AAT at Jefferson College by helping students integrate their experiences during the AAT and prepare for their four-year teacher education programs as well as their own classrooms. Preservice teachers in this course complete focused field experiences where they are able to apply their professional knowledge and develop teaching skills working with P-12 students and teachers, such as by planning, teaching, and reflecting on lessons through the Junior Achievement program. (3 credit hours)

***Education of Exceptional Learners (EDU235)** is an introduction to exceptional learners and their education in grades P-12. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the characteristics of people with special needs in addition to strategies of educating and including all learners in general education and special education settings. Students will research and discuss complex issues related to compliance with state and federal education laws, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well learn to navigate special education processes, such as referral, eligibility, re-evaluation, and Individual Education Program (IEPs.) (3 credit hours)

Multicultural Education (EDU240) is designed to examine the multicultural context of education and prepare students to understand and teach learners from diverse backgrounds, with diverse characteristics, and with differing social identities. The course will address issues of educational equity, sociocultural influences on teaching and learning, and how teachers and schools can contribute to interpersonal and intercultural understanding and respect, social justice, and democratic citizenship. Multicultural education is a humanities option for all AAT majors. (3 credit hours)

***Literature for Children (EDU245)** introduces students to methods of sharing quality literature for young children. Students will learn criteria for evaluating literature, enrichment activities, and storytelling techniques. Literature for Children is a humanities option for early childhood/elementary education majors seeking an AAT degree. (3 credit hours)



Field Experiences

Field experiences provide future teachers with essential opportunities to develop a professional perspective and experience in real-world educational settings. Our students complete field experiences in several of our teacher education courses. An overview of the nature of these field experiences is below.

In Exploring the Field of Education (the first class in the program where students visit P-12 schools), each student must complete a background check and receive clearance prior to beginning any field experience at any P-12 school. We accept this initial clearance for the duration of time (for up to three years) that the student is continuously enrolled in our program.

Exploring the Field of Education (EDU105)

Observations: Students in this class complete at least six hours of field experience by observing two hours in PK-4 classrooms, two hours in 5-8 classrooms, and two hours in 9-12 classrooms to help them decide in which level of teaching they fit the best. During their observations, these students note actions of teachers and students in addition to examples of teaching standards, which they use to analyze their experiences.

Interviews: Students also interview a teacher and student—typically in the grade level they most want to teach—to help them understand those perspectives.

Foundations of Education in a Diverse Society (EDU210)

Tutoring: Students in Foundations of Education complete six hours of tutoring at an area public school, which provides real-world practice in the role of teaching others. They analyze and reflect on their experiences.

School Board Meeting: Students in this course are also required to attend one public school board meeting in order to facilitate their understanding of the role/influence of school boards in the teaching and learning process.

Education of Exceptional Learners (EDU235) Students complete 15 hour of field experiences in special education settings in this class.

Literature for Children (EDU245)

Students develop their teaching skills through real-world practice reading to young children.

Teaching Profession With Field Experience (EDU230) Students complete at least 30 total field experience hours in a number of ways by the end of this class.

Junior Achievement (JA) Teaching Practicum: The JA practicum provides students with a real-world experience in planning, teaching, reflecting, and collaborating. Each student in this class teaches a series of five economics lessons to pupils in grades K-5 and collaborates with practicing teachers in schools. In addition, students create their own lesson plans for the lessons they teach based on a guide and materials that JA provides. They also reflect on their experiences as well as discuss their experiences with colleagues in class. Prior to their first lesson, students spend five hours assisting the classroom teacher as they become acclimated to the classroom environment.

Multicultural Field Experience: Students spend at least three hours at a diverse St. Louis City school. This requirement allows most Jefferson College students to experience a different perspective of teaching and learning from what they are familiar and helps them prepare for working with students of diverse backgrounds.

Classroom Teaching Assistantship (CTA): Some students opt to spend a sustained amount of time (at least six hours) actively working with a practicing classroom teacher in his/her P-12 classroom.

Other Options: Some students choose to tutor elementary school pupils; spend time observing in classrooms; or shadow administrators, guidance counselors, librarians, etc.

For more information about the Associate of Arts in Teaching degree,

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