

Education

at Centre College

A strong liberal arts background is an ideal preparation for a teaching career. Teachers need exceptional preparation. They need to know how to think, to be knowledgeable in their subject area, and to be able to integrate and communicate knowledge.

Why become a teacher?

Due to the increased scrutiny and criticism of Education in recent years, it is vital that many of the best and the brightest become teachers. High-quality teachers are the key to any successful school. A commitment to teaching does not require a lifetime commitment. Teaching and the skills one learns in teaching—communication skills, organizational skills, leadership skills—also serve as an effective preparation for any career.

The 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) introduced dramatic changes in Kentucky schools that resulted in Kentucky as an educational leader. From the Secretary of Education to the national media to educators in every state, everyone recognizes that schools in Kentucky are at the cutting edge of educational practices.

Why attend Centre for teacher certification?

In Kentucky and elsewhere, in addition to their teaching tasks, teachers are responsible for making virtually all the key school decisions—from what curriculum to follow to what teachers to hire. At Centre, we give potential teachers a solid academic background. Our education program then builds on that background to produce teachers who know current teaching methods, can reason and make judgments, are flexible and creative, analyze and question reforms, and reflect and solve problems. Centre strives to produce excellent teachers and decision-makers who will excel in any teaching situation.

Both Centre and the education program at Centre are small so that close working relationships develop between students and professors. The professor who

supervises your student teaching is a person who knows you well, has been your advisor, and has taught many of your classes.

What certification is offered?

Centre offers P-12 certification in art, French, German, and Spanish, as well as certification in both elementary (P-5) and secondary (8-12). Secondary certification areas include biology, chemistry, English, mathematics, social studies, and physics.

Due to the rigorous certification requirements in Kentucky and reciprocity agreements, Centre graduates usually are able to teach in other states.

What are the requirements and how long does it take to be certified?

Centre is committed to a four-year program of teacher education, and the vast majority of Centre students in teacher education do graduate in four years. Students seeking secondary certification will major in their subject areas and minor in education while students seeking K-5 certification will major in elementary education. Certification requirements are available on the program Web page at web.centre.edu/edu/Handbook/cert_req.html.



Leslie Meadows
Centre Class of 2010
Elementary Education Major

“When it comes to designing lesson and unit plans, student choice has allowed me to focus on my own interests and figure out which methods of teaching are most successful for my particular students.”

Special Opportunities

Education courses at Centre require experience in schools, so students spend significant time in classrooms prior to student teaching. A variety of schools in and around Danville model effective teaching practice, with several recipients of state and national excellence awards. In schools as diverse as the Kentucky School for the Deaf, a Montessori school, and a school for children with behavior disorders, Centre students have numerous opportunities to observe and implement teaching strategies. Centre education students also create an on-campus enrichment program, L.I.F.T. (Learning is Fun Together), for local children. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Society of Future Educators where they begin to develop a network of education professionals.

Student Successes

Centre graduates experience success securing teaching positions. Our graduates occupy leadership positions from department chairs and curriculum supervisors to principals and superintendents.

While Centre's education program is small, our graduates have won numerous awards at the national, state, and local levels. Nationally, two graduates have won Sallie Mae awards, given to the 100 best first-year teachers in the United States. One of our graduates was selected as the 2000 Kentucky Teacher of the Year. At the local level, a Centre graduate was honored as the WHAS EXCEL Teacher of the Year in Shelby County, Ky.

Centre students have almost a 100 percent pass rate on the PRAXIS subject area exams since the required federal Title II reporting began in 1999. Centre's full report can be found in the online catalog at web.centre.edu/regist/catalog/educ.html. The Education Professional Standards Board publishes report cards for all Kentucky education programs on its Web site at wd.kyepsb.net/EPsB.WebApps/KEPPReportCard/Public/.

Faculty

JAMES H. ATKINS is an associate professor of education as well as an assistant vice president. He has been a middle school teacher, an elementary principal, and a central office administrator. Social studies, multicultural education, and diversity are his chief interests.

CANDACE BONNETT is an instructor of education at Centre. She has taught at Georgetown College and Bluegrass Community Technical College. In addition to her teaching position, she also works as the Instructional Technology Coordinator of the Center for Teaching and

Learning. Her areas of specialization include educational technology, multimedia, image editing, html development, and to provide training and support to the Centre College faculty, students, and staff. Bonnett teaches the Educational Technology course.

SARAH MURRAY has worked with K-12 teachers as a resource coordinator with the Appalachia Math and Science Partnership. She holds a master's in secondary education and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kentucky. Her area of interest is peer mentoring and its effects on classroom instruction and student achievement.

DONNA M. PLUMMER is an associate professor of education who completed her Ph.D. with an emphasis in science education at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her interests include children's career aspirations, equity issues, and using children's literature to teach science.

MARY RUDD is a visiting instructor of education. Her previous experience in public education includes teaching and coaching at the secondary level, serving as an assistant principal, a curriculum coordinator, and most recently in Jefferson County schools as a Highly Skilled Educator with the Kentucky Department of Education. Her primary teaching and research interests include language arts education, reading in the content areas, closing the achievement gap, improving school culture and climate, teacher leadership, and change leadership.



For further information about education at Centre, write, call, or e-mail

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Education Web page

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