Curry School of Graduate Education

Click on a link to be taken to the entry below.

- Degree Programs
- Facilities and Services
- Kinesiology Facilities
- Student Organizations
- Academic Honors, Scholarships and Honor Societies
- General Academic Requirements
- Other Requirements
- Special Tuition and Fee Information
- Program/Degree Requirements
- Doctoral Degrees
- Faculty

The Curry School of Education, founded with two professorships in 1905 as one of the academic schools of the University, was endowed by gifts of $100,000 from John D. Rockefeller and $50,000 from the State General Education Fund. The school was named for Dr. J.L.M. Curry, a native Georgian whose accomplishments made him a man of great renown throughout the antebellum and reconstruction South. In addition to being an ordained minister, a Harvard law graduate, a member of Congress, and a U.S. Ambassador, Dr. Curry was a historian, an author, a college professor, and a strong advocate of universal education.

In 1919, the school was given a professional basis similar to that of the Schools of Law, Medicine, and Engineering. In 1950, a graduate division was established, offering the degrees of Master of Education and Doctor of Education. An Education Specialist degree was approved and initiated in 1974.

In 1968, the Curry School of Education entered a period of rapid and significant growth. By the mid 1970s, the faculty had increased to approximately 120 members. Today there are more than 20 specialized programs. The school has assumed a strong leadership role in the state through training educational personnel, providing valuable professional experiences, and applying research findings in service to various school divisions, colleges, and other educational agencies.

The Curry School of Education has two major missions. The first is to prepare personnel to work in America’s educational system, pre-kindergarten through collegiate levels, and to conduct research and scholarship that address problems and issues of importance to our educational system. Through partnerships with other organizations and educational institutions, the Curry School is committed to developing exemplary and innovative approaches to address those issues and problems. The second mission is to enhance human potential by preparing professionals and conducting research in such areas as psychological/emotional development, physical development and fitness, and speech/language/auditory development. These areas contribute to the betterment of the human condition and
English for Academic Purposes program in the summer for incoming international students, scholars, and research associates. For information contact the Center for American English Language and Culture, (434) 924 6552 or caelc@virginia.edu.

All prospective graduate teaching assistants whose first language is one other than English are required to take the SPEAK Test. A score of at least 55 is generally required for permission to begin teaching without oral language training. The SPEAK Test is administered in August, December, and May. Candidates for the test are identified by their department. Information about the SPEAK Test is available at www.virginia.edu/provost/caelc.

Other Requirements

Change of Program Area Students are admitted into a specific program area in the Curry School of Education. To change a program area or registration status, students must be in satisfactory standing in their present program area and be approved for admission to the new program area. Change of status forms to initiate this process are available online at http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/admissions/pdf/changeofstatusform.pdf

Matriculation A student who is offered admission must accept that offer (in writing) and take at least one course at the University within one year of the matriculation date stated on his or her application or the school assumes that he or she is not attending the University. After one year, application materials are destroyed, requiring a new application for readmission. Readmission is not automatic in such instances and depends upon a full review of the student’s record.

Faculty Advisor After being admitted, each student is assigned a faculty advisor. The advisor must be contacted before the first semester of matriculation to plan the degree program. All courses taken for degree credit must be appropriate to the student’s degree program and must have the advisor’s approval. It is the student’s responsibility to determine the specific requirements prescribed by the department and program area.

Transfer of Credit Students may, with the approval of the associate dean and the department offering the program, transfer some graduate credit earned at other institutions. The Curry School grants transfer credit based on an analysis of the content, level, and comparability of the courses taken, the applicability of the courses to the student’s intended major and degree program and the quality of the student’s performance in the courses. Specific limitations and policies governing the application of transfer credit toward degrees are listed in the section on degree requirements. Undergraduate courses, or courses previously applied toward an undergraduate degree, are not transferable for credit to graduate programs.

Through the many continuing and professional studies centers located throughout the state, the Curry School of Education offers courses that may be taken for graduate degree credit. Upon request, the Curry School will organize courses for local school systems or other organizations in which teachers may earn non-degree credit.

Enrollment Requirements Although it is not necessary to be enrolled continuously from the time of acceptance as a graduate student until completion of the degree, students must apply for readmission to the Curry School if they allow 12 consecutive months to elapse without being enrolled in at least one course for credit toward a degree program. Readmission is not automatic in such instances and will depend on a full review of the student’s past record and departmental resources. Students who are readmitted are subject to the current requirements.

Ph.D. students must be continually enrolled each regular (fall and spring) semester. Students who fail to do so must re-apply.

All students, resident or non-resident, must be officially registered during the semester in which a degree may be conferred and at any time in which University
resources are used (e.g., examinations, committee meetings, faculty conferences).

**Registration** Registration and advising days are announced in the calendar in this Record and online at www.virginia.edu/registrar/calendar.html. Students should use ISIS (www.virginia.edu/isis) to register for classes after consulting with their advisors. Registration includes three steps: course enrollment, fee payment, and final registration. Professional Development students may enroll online or at the Office of Admission and Student Affairs of the Curry School on the first day of class.

**Course Load** Full-time students take a minimum of 9 graduate credits during each regular semester. A student must petition for special permission to take 18 or more credits.

Students who are employed full-time may enroll for a maximum of three credits each semester. Permission to enroll in more than three credits must be secured from the employer, advisor, department chair, and associate dean.

**Drop and Add** After the final date for adding or dropping courses, any change in enrollment (or requests to change the grading system by which the student is evaluated) can only be made by completing a policy exception form and receiving approval of the instructor, advisor, and associate dean.

In general, it is not possible to drop a course after the specified date; with the instructor’s consent, it may be possible to be assigned a grade of W, WP, or WF.

**Grade Changes** It is the student’s responsibility to monitor the accuracy of university transcripts. This can be done through ISIS at www.virginia.edu/isis. All corrections or inquiries must be completed within one calendar year of the course.

**Incomplete Policy** An IN is recorded when reasons known to the professor are judged adequate to justify an extension of time to complete course requirements. An IN may not be used to allow a student to attempt to raise a grade at the end of the term. The time line to complete an incomplete may be negotiated with an instructor but may not extend beyond one year of the semester in which the course was originally taken. Students are expected to enter into a written contract with the instructor specifying the remaining requirements and agreed-upon time line. It is the student’s responsibility to file the incomplete agreement in the Office of Admission and Student Affairs. After one year, if the student has not met the terms of the incomplete agreement, the faculty member may submit a grade of F, U, WF, or W; if no action is taken by the faculty member, the incomplete is administratively changed to a W. Because the structure and content of courses constantly change, in order to change an incomplete grade that is older than three years to a regular course grade, the instructor may require that the student take the course again.

**Withdrawal From A Course** A student may withdraw from a course at any point prior to 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes (in the term of enrollment) if permission has been secured from the student’s advisor and instructor and a petition has been approved and filed in the dean’s office. This action results in the course remaining on the transcript and the instructor being asked to record a grade of W, WP or WF on the final grade sheet; a W may be assigned only if there is no basis on which to determine a WF or WP. None of these notations affects the grade point average, nor does the course count toward credits earned.

**Grading** Grades are awarded only to students who register for and complete a course for credit. The letter grade symbols used for grading graduate students in the Curry School of Education are: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, W, WP, and WF. The lowest grade that can be applied toward a degree is B-.

Student work may be graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis in certain courses within the Curry School. These courses or sections are approved for this grading system by the department offering the course and the associate dean for academic and student affairs. The specific S/U graded courses and the maximum number of credits that may be completed under this system and applied toward a graduate degree must be approved by the student’s major program advisor and, if a