Curry School of Education

The Curry School of Education offers professional programs designed to prepare individuals for a variety of careers related to the practice of education. The school was named for Dr. Jabez L. M. Curry, an eminent southern educator. It was endowed in 1905 by gifts from John D. Rockefeller and the General Education Fund and became a professional school in 1919. Graduate programs in education were established in 1950, and the degree programs offered now include the Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.); a five-year teacher education program leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Master of Teaching (M.T.); the Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Teaching (M.T.), and Educational Specialist (Ed.S.); and two different doctoral degrees (Ed.D. and Ph.D.).

The Curry School of Education has two major missions. The first is to prepare individuals 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 education 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, and to improving instruction and schooling in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, the Teacher Education Program has provided national leadership in the preparation of beginning teachers, as well as advanced training for experienced teachers and personnel related to teaching. The five-year Teacher Education Program is an integrated program sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Curry School of Education. It combines strong subject matter preparation with professional training that leads to teacher licensure and results in the simultaneous receipt of both bachelor’s and master’s degrees after a total of five years of study at the University.

Programs leading to teacher licensure include specializations in elementary education, health and physical education, early childhood and developmental risk, and special education (including behavioral disorders, learning disabilities, and mental retardation). For secondary teachers, specializations are available in English, foreign languages, mathematics, sciences (biology, chemistry, earth science, physics), and social studies.

The second major mission of the Curry School is to enhance human potential and performance 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
Application to the Curry School Students who wish to apply for the teacher education program in the Curry School of Education must submit a full application by March 1 of their first or second year; those who wish to apply for the communication disorders or sports medicine programs must submit a full application by March 1 of their second year. Students wishing to teach in high need areas (math, foreign languages, science, special education) may apply as late as their third year in the College. Students seeking to enroll in teacher education must be in the College (i.e., students in the Schools of Architecture, Engineering, or Nursing must transfer to the College first). Students interested in applying to B.S.Ed. programs in communication disorders or physical education apply to transfer to the Curry School.

To apply, students must complete an application, provide a statement of professional goals, and furnish all transcripts. Applications are evaluated in terms of academic course work (preference given to 3.000 GPA), strong SAT scores (preference given to 1000 or above), and experience related to professional goals. Applications from under-represented groups or those with varied backgrounds are strongly encouraged. Information about specific application procedures is available in the Office of Admissions, 104 Ruffner Hall.

Residence Requirement A recipient of a B.S.Ed. degree from the Curry School must have completed four semesters of full-time (12 credits) study at the University of Virginia while enrolled in the Curry School of Education. Exceptions for emergency situations may only be granted with the advisor’s and dean’s permission. In addition, all students must be full-time (12 credits minimum) during all semesters, except the final one (9 credits minimum).

Course Load Special permission of the advisor and dean’s office is required to take fewer than 12, or more than 18, credits during a given semester.

Final Examinations are given during a designated period of time at the end of each semester. Examinations may only be given at the time listed in the Course Offering Directory unless authorized by the dean. Students are not authorized to take final exams before the regularly scheduled time. However, under serious conditions, and with their instructor’s and advisor’s permission, students may be allowed to postpone the examination to a time convenient to the instructor. Students who have three exams in one day or four in a two-day period may petition to have one examination moved.

Attendance Students are expected to attend classes throughout the session, with the exception of University holidays, unless permission to be absent temporarily or to withdraw has been first granted by the instructor. Routine excuses for illness are not furnished by the Department of Student Health either to the student or to the instructor. If final examinations are missed for serious medical reasons, the Department of Student Health notifies the dean. On request of the dean, the Department of Student Health may evaluate the effect of any illness upon a student’s attendance and academic performance. Failure to attend classes or other prescribed activities in a course may result in enforced withdrawal from the course or other penalties as determined by the instructor.

Attendance During Examinations Written exams are an essential part of the work of most courses. A final examination or culminating experience is expected in all classes. The time period assigned for final exams is considered part of the regular academic semester, and classes must meet during their scheduled examination period. Absence from exams is not excused except for illness, attested to by a physician’s certificate, or for other causes that the instructor, advisor, and dean, by special action, may approve. An unexcused absence is counted as a failure and, at the discretion of the instructor, may result in failing the course.

Course Grades All specifically required courses must be taken for regular, graded