

## ***What kind of inclusion teacher do we prepare?***

We have designed our programs in inclusive education to provide you with an understanding of disability and its role in education. In order to do this, you must gain an understanding of the historical, social and legal contexts of disability and education. This understanding will prepare you to critically examine current practices in the education of students with disabilities. Based upon this analysis of current practices, you will begin to develop the knowledge and expertise necessary to become an exemplary teacher of diverse learners and a leader in developing school models based on collaboration, belonging and inclusion.

Based on research about how people learn and what is most effective in preparing teachers, we have designed our programs to:

- Raise your awareness about students' differences and individual needs, and develop strategies to address them equitably in your teaching.
- Help you develop an approach to teaching diverse students that is grounded in knowledge of the research, theory, issues and trends influencing special education and inclusion.
- Encourage you to integrate theory and practice, as well as content and pedagogy.
- Learn how to construct classroom environments that promote social justice and equity.
- Develop the habits of a reflective practitioner, so that professional growth and improvement continues after completion of the program.

### ***What are the pre-requisites for entering Warner programs leading to an additional teaching certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities?***

The programs described in this booklet are intended for teachers who have already obtained Initial Teaching Certification to teach at one or more of the following grade levels: birth to grade 2, grades 1-6, grades 5-9 or grades 7-12. Therefore, we expect students entering any of our inclusion programs to have already met all the “content core” and “general pedagogy core” requirements set by New York State for initial certification.

### ***Some statistics about job opportunities in teaching***

Teachers held about 3.4 million jobs in 1998. Of those, about 1.9 million were kindergarten and elementary school teachers, 1.4 million were secondary teachers, and about half a million were special education teachers. Employment is distributed geographically, much the same as the population.

Overall employment of teachers is expected to increase about as fast as the national average through the year 2008. The expected retirement of a large number of teachers should open up many additional jobs.

The job market for teachers varies widely by geographic area. Many inner cities that struggle with higher than average crime and poverty rates and rural areas in remote locations have difficulty attracting teachers, so job prospects will continue to be better in these areas than in suburban districts. Also, teachers who are geographically mobile and who obtain licensure in more than one subject should have an advantage in finding employment.

Median annual earnings of all teachers ranged from \$33,590 to \$37,890 in 1998. The lowest 10 percent ranged from \$19,710 to \$24,390; the top 10 percent from \$53,720 to \$70,030.

## ***What are your options to obtain an additional certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities at Warner?***

### ***At what grade levels do you want to teach?***

At the Warner School, we have programs that enable you to obtain New York State (NYS) Certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities at the same grade levels you are currently certified to teach. More specifically, we offer programs in:

- **Teaching Students with Disabilities in Early Childhood** (*birth to grade 2-EC*)
- **Teaching Students with Disabilities in Childhood** (*grades 1-6-CH*)
- **Teaching Students with Disabilities in Middle Childhood** (*grades 5-9-MC*)
- **Teaching Students with Disabilities in Adolescence** (*grades 7-12-AD*)

### ***Do you need professional certification in your original area?***

If you also want to obtain NYS Professional Teaching Certification in your original area, you must enroll in one of our M.S. programs leading to Initial and Professional certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities at the grade level you currently teach. This Masters program will also meeting all the academic requirements set by New York State to obtain Professional certification in your original area. This program includes 30 credits of coursework, plus some internships (for an additional 0-5 credits), unless at least two of your previous field experiences and/or student teaching were already conducted in inclusive settings.

If you already have NYS Professional Teaching Certification in your original area, you also have the option to choose a non-degree program that will enable you to obtain initial and professional certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities at the grade level you currently teach with the minimum possible number of courses. The number of credits required, in this case, will depend on how many of the required courses and internships you have already taken as part of your previous programs.

Both options can be completed part-time while holding a full-time teaching job, provided that appropriate arrangements are made to fulfill the required internships.

***What do our programs for additional certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities look like?***

**M.S. programs (30-35 credits):**

1. ***Masters' Core:***
  - Masters' Research Methods
  - Race, Class, Gender & Disability in American Education
2. ***Specialization: 7 courses about disability and inclusion:***
  - Disability & Schools (Disability & Early Childhood for EC)
  - Collaborative Teaching Partnerships in Inclusive Classrooms
  - Assessment in Instructional Contexts
  - Teaching & Learning in Inclusive Classrooms (Early Interventions for 0-3 year-old Children with Disabilities for EC)
  - Instructional Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms (Early Interventions for pre-school Children with Disabilities for EC)
  - 2 methods courses
3. ***Internships: Up to two apprenticeship experiences in inclusive setting, if not already done in previous programs:***
  - Field experiences in inclusive settings (2 credits)
  - Student teaching in inclusive settings (3 credits)
4. ***Electives: one or more electives (depending on whether you have already taken some of the above courses as part of previous programs)***
5. ***Master's Essay.***

**Non-degree programs (12-24 credits):** Only the specialization courses and internships that you have NOT already taken as part of your previous teacher preparation program(s).

***Choice of electives includes, but is not limited to, the following courses:***

- Inclusion Institute (*Summer*)
- School, Family and Community Partnerships (*Fall*)
- Language and Literacy in Education (*Fall*)
- History of American Education
- Philosophy of Education

### ***What courses can you transfer into your Warner program?***

If you choose to enroll in a M.S. program, you can transfer up to 10 credits of graduate coursework into your program – provided that these courses are relevant to your program (i.e., can substitute for some required or elective course on your program of study), you took them within the last 5 years and at the graduate level, and they are approved by the Dean's Office. Otherwise, required courses that you have already taken in previous programs can be substituted with electives.

If you choose one of our non-degree programs, you can transfer in any of the required courses you have previously taken (either at the undergraduate or graduate level), upon approval by the Dean's office.

### ***What else would you need in order to obtain NYS certification?***

You need to be a NYS permanent resident to obtain any certification from NYS.

#### **Additional requirements for Initial Certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities**

In addition to the coursework and experiences that you will undertake in your program (as described in the previous pages), you will also need to meet the following requirements established by NYSED for all those seeking an Initial Teaching Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities:

- Attendance to the NYS-approved workshops on Child Abuse and School Violence Prevention & Intervention (*if you did not comply with this requirement as part of your first certification program*)
- Passing each of the following NYS Teacher Examinations:
  - LAST (Liberal Arts and Science Test) (*if not done yet*)
  - ATS-W (Assessment of Teaching Skills—written) (*if not done yet*)
  - CST (Content Specialty Test) (*expected to be in place starting Fall 2003*)
- Fingerprint-supported background check (*if one is not already on file with NYSED*)

#### **Additional requirements for Professional Certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities and your original area of specialization**

Once you have completed one of the M.S. programs described in this booklet, you will also have satisfied all the *academic* requirements established by NYSED for obtaining Professional Teaching Certification *both* in Teaching Students with Disabilities at your chosen grade level and your original area of certification. In addition, however, you will also need to satisfy the following requirements:

- Passing each of the following NYS Teacher Examinations:
  - ATS-P Video (Assessment of Teaching Skills—Performance)
  - CST (Content Specialty Test) in both ESOL and your original area of specialization (*expected to be in place starting Fall 2003*)
- Having completed a minimum of 3 years of teaching experience, with the first one conducted in a mentored situation.

## ***Information about our admission process and criteria***

As part of your application, you are asked to submit a portfolio containing the following information:

- Original transcripts from all the higher education institutions attended.
- Writing sample (scholarly paper).
- Personal statement about their career goals, interests, and objectives in entering the program.
- At least 2 letters of recommendation.
- TOEFL scores for international applicants who are not native English speakers.

In addition, you have to schedule an individual interview with a Warner School faculty member affiliated with the teacher preparation program you have applied to. The faculty member completes an interview report that is then added to your application file.

All of these materials are reviewed by the entire faculty in the Teaching and Curriculum department, and then by the Admission and Financial Aid Committee of the Warner School, taking into consideration the following admission criteria:

1. Applicants must have received a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or equivalent by the time they enter the program.
2. Applicants must have the ability to do graduate work at the University of Rochester, as demonstrated by their past academic performance and their academic writing skills.
3. Applicants must have sufficient knowledge of the subject matters they intend to teach, appropriate to the specialization and grade level of the certification(s) sought.
4. Applicants must demonstrate sufficient communication and interpersonal skills to serve students well in an instructional setting.
5. Applicants' career goals, teaching interests, academic background, attitudes and teaching philosophy must be consistent with the programs offered by the Warner School and its stated mission.

When admitted into the program, you will be assigned an academic advisor, who will support and monitor your progress throughout the program. You will also be expected to attend an orientation meeting intended to help you finalize your program of study.

## Summary of options for teachers seeking an additional certification for Teaching Students with Disabilities:

<u>Age level</u>	<b>Early Childhood (EC)</b>	<b>Childhood (CH)</b>	<b>Middle Childhood (MC)</b>	<b>Adolescence (AD)</b>
<b>Type of program:</b>	<i>Teaching children from birth to grade 2</i>	<i>Teaching in grades 1-6</i>	<i>Teaching a subject in grades 5-9</i>	<i>Teaching a subject in grades 7-12</i>
<p><b>M.S. programs</b></p> <p>Meets academic requirements for NYS Professional certification in original area + Initial &amp; Prof. certification for Teaching Students w/ Disabilities</p>	<p>M.S. degree leading to NYS Initial and Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Early Childhood (birth to grade 2) PLUS Professional Certification in original area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (a) 32 credits</p>	<p>M.S. degree leading to NYS Initial and Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Childhood (grades 1-6) PLUS Professional Certification in original area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (c) 32 credits</p>	<p>M.S. degree leading to NYS Initial and Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Middle Childhood (grades 5-9) as specialist in the original subject matter PLUS Professional Certification in original area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (e) 32 credits</p>	<p>M.S. degree leading to NYS Initial and Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Adolescence (grades 7-12) as specialist in the original subject matter PLUS Professional Certification in original area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (g) 32 credits</p>
<p><b>Non-degree programs</b></p> <p>Meets academic requirements for Initial + Professional Certification for Teaching Students w/ Disabilities ONLY, with minimum coursework and credits</p>	<p>Leads to NYS Initial + Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Early Childhood (birth to grade 2)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (b) variable credits</p>	<p>Leads to NYS Initial + Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Childhood (grades 1-6)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (d) variable credits</p>	<p>Leads to NYS Initial + Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Middle Childhood (grades 5-9) as specialist in the original subject matter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (f) variable credits</p>	<p>Leads to NYS Initial + Professional Certification in Teaching Students with Disabilities in Adolescence (grades 7-12) as specialist in the original subject matter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM (h) variable credits</p>

**Programs of study for each option follow.**