



Many Pathways to a Classroom



Most Common Pathways to a Classroom:

Graduate Programs in Education

Degree-Connected Teaching Programs

Non-Degree Seeking Teaching Cohort Programs

Teaching in Independent Schools

Grinnell College Education Program





Grinnell College Teacher Education Program



- Grinnell College has a state-approved Teacher Education Program. Through this program, students may be licensed (this is the official word Iowa uses instead of certified) to teach in Iowa, as secondary (grades 5-12) teachers.
- Students seeking licensure must have taken a course in mathematics, in humanities, in American history or government, and coursework in both a biological and physical science.
- Students seeking licensure at Grinnell College must apply to enter the Practitioner Preparation Program. This should be done no later than the deadline for declaring a major, usually in the second semester of the second year.
- Most students seeking licensure at Grinnell College plan to take nine semesters to do so.

Teaching at Independent Schools

- Independent private schools are supported primarily by tuitions, charitable giving, and endowment income rather than by tax or church funds.
- Independent schools develop their own criteria for hiring teachers.
 - At the elementary level, independent schools seek teachers with solid grounding in early childhood education and those teaching middle school are expected to understand the developmental issues critical to this age group.
 - At the secondary level, there is a strong preference for teachers with undergraduate and graduate degrees in the liberal arts and sciences, and for teachers who have demonstrated academic achievement by succeeding at colleges with competitive admissions standards. These teachers are recognized as specialists in their major fields.
- State certification is not usually required of independent school teachers. Independent schools hold themselves publicly accountable through accreditation – a process of peer evaluation that certifies that schools meet certain standards of educational quality, fiscal operation, and staff competence as defined by an independent entity.
- Independent schools welcome applications from recent college graduates (at both the bachelor's and graduate levels), experienced teachers (from independent schools, public schools, and colleges), and people changing careers. Typically, independent schools begin interviewing and hiring teachers earlier in the year than public schools, with most of the action occurring between February and May in preparation for the next school term.

Non-Degree Seeking Teaching Cohort Programs

- Alternative teaching programs were being created as early as the 1980s as a way to cope with teacher shortages. By providing an alternative path to a teaching career, these programs hoped to encourage an increase in the overall teacher population.
- The programs target areas with the highest demand, such as:
 - Urban areas
 - Rural areas
 - Specific subject areas such as Special Education, Math or Science
- Popular National Alternative Teaching Programs that Grinnellians apply to:
 - Teach For America ★
 - TNTP Teaching Fellows

TEACHFORAMERICA

- Teach For America is a nationwide program that serves 53 regions and aims to supply high-needs areas with qualified teaching candidates. Notice that we refer to these individuals as 'qualified teaching candidates' rather than 'qualified teachers.' It's important to note that distinction, because to become a member of Teach For America, you do not need to be a teacher or have any teaching experience.
- Complete the application on their website
 - Series of short answer questions, submit your resume, and 2-3 names of people who would provide recommendations
- Complete a series of phone and in-person/virtual interviews
 - Round 1: 30 minute phone interview
 - Round 2: Case study and other short answer questions
 - Round 3: Group interview with 5-minute teaching demonstration
- If you are offered a position, you will make two important decisions:
 - Rank 10 regions that you would want to teach out of, ranging from your first to last choice
 - Rank subject matters that you would want to teach/feel qualified to teach

TEACHFORAMERICA

- You will be assigned to a region and subject matter/grade level
- You then complete a state-approved educator assessment to be qualified to teach that subject
 - Most often, this is the Praxis exam
- The final step before you move to your new region will be completing a month-long intensive orientation called 'Institute'
- Before, during and possibly after Institute, you will be taking phone interviews with schools in your region to find a position. These interviews are set up by Teach for America staff members.
- During your two-year teaching commitment you will also be taking classes that work towards earning a teaching certification
 - The form these classes take may vary depending on the region you are located in:
 - Local college or university
 - Local school district
 - Option of completing a Master's in Education at a predetermined institution at a discounted rate
- After completing your two-year commitment, and all state requirements, you will be a certified teacher.

Degree-Connected Residency Teaching Programs

- Residency programs can be a much more gentle way of introducing a new, inexperienced prospective teacher into the every-day life of a teacher.
- You observe a trained professional and slowly gain the knowledge, experience and confidence that will lead you to working independently. While residency programs will vary from state to state, you can expect the program to last for 1-5 years, with most averaging 2-3 years.
- An average residency program will pair a non-certified teacher with a certified teacher. That non-certified teacher will complete hands-on experience within the certified teacher's classroom to learn the skills of a teacher.
- Initially, you will be a silent observer. Then, slowly, you will begin helping with classroom management, which will lead to teaching a lesson or two. Depending on your progress, you will be given full control of the classroom.
 - You are still under the direction of the certified teacher. They will help guide you by pointing out things you did well and things you need to continue to work on.
- Throughout your residency, you will also be working towards earning your teacher certification by earning a master's degree.



THE WOODROW WILSON
National Fellowship Foundation

- The WW Teaching Fellowship seeks to attract talented, committed individuals with backgrounds in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—into teaching in high-need secondary schools in Pennsylvania.
- Eligible applicants include U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are college seniors, recent college graduates, midcareer professionals, and retirees who have a degree or an extensive academic background in STEM.
- The Teaching Fellowship includes:
 - Admission to a master’s degree program at one of two well-established partner universities
 - Teacher certification in science or mathematics education
 - Extensive preparation for teaching in a high-need urban secondary school for one full year prior to becoming the teacher-of-record in a science or math classroom
 - \$32,000 stipend during their first year while completing the master’s degree



THE WOODROW WILSON
National Fellowship Foundation

- Once Fellows are certified teachers by completing their master's degree (Year 1), they obtain salaried employment in high-need schools.
- Fellows commit to teaching in a high-need urban secondary school for three years:
 - PA Fellows who attend the University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University must complete their Fellowship commitment in a Citizens & Scholars-approved public high-need school in the School District of Philadelphia (SDP)
- The Teaching Fellowship includes:
 - support and mentoring throughout the three-year teaching commitment
 - support of a cohort of WW Fellows passionate about science and math education
 - lifelong membership in a national network of Citizen & Scholars Fellows who are intellectual leaders

Graduate Education Programs

- In contrast to undergraduate study which introduces you to a wide range of subjects, even though you major in one, a graduate program involves specialized knowledge and concentrated study in one area.
- It is generally a final or terminal degree, and often involves an internship, practicum, or field work.
- Programs fall into one of two broad categories: MAT vs MEd

Graduate Education Programs

M.A.T.

- The Master of Arts in Teaching (sometimes called a Master's in Teaching) is a degree program centered on practical skills and subject-specific information.
- The first few semesters will likely be devoted to topics such as classroom management, evaluation and assessment, planning and instruction, and the study of specific subject areas such as math, reading, science, etc. The end of an MAT program will usually consist of a clinical placement in a classroom, such as a practicum and/or student teaching experience where the MAT student will gradually take on full-time teaching responsibilities and practice leading a real classroom.

M.Ed

- The Master of Education (sometimes called a Master's in Education) focuses less on subject-specific practical skills and more on preparing students to understand and critically evaluate the practice of education. Although MEd students learn useful approaches to classroom instruction, they can also investigate the theory and practice of teaching more broadly.
- In addition, specialized Master in Education programs offer concentrated study of specific specialties, including Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Leadership, Education Technology and Learning Design, Mathematics, Career and Technical Education, Social Studies, and Science.