Florida Southern’s Elementary Education Program Ranks First Among All Florida Private Colleges

In the January 2016 Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Annual Program Performance Report (APPR), Florida Southern College’s Elementary Education program is named the best among all private colleges in the state and tied for second out of 75 public and private elementary education programs. The FLDOE annually evaluates every state-approved teacher preparation program based on a critical analysis of teacher placement, retention, evaluation and other such factors that attest to the quality of each institution. The ranking is based on APPR Summative Rating Scores that includes data that was gathered in 2014 comparing 287 education programs from 127 different institutions. The report card gives results of outcome-based performance metrics determined by the Florida Legislature through statutes and rules.

“For Florida’s students to have the learning opportunities they deserve, Florida-trained educators must have the preparation they need. This report is a major milestone for Florida, placing us again in the very top tier of states in the country in making commitments to college and career readiness for every student. I commend our teacher preparation programs for their collaboration on this great effort,” said Education Commissioner Pam Stewart.

Dr. Tracey D. Tedder, Dean of Education

Florida Southern College has a long and outstanding reputation for preparing future teachers. This report is further evidence of the hard work and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff, as well our institutional credibility. FSC graduates are making a difference with the children they teach through a curriculum that embraces engaged learning and provides authentic clinical experiences from the beginning.

A Message from the Dean

Our faculty members are passionate about preparing future teachers and educational leaders for the next generation. Florida Southern College’s School of Education is committed to implementing research-backed learning techniques that make the most powerful impact on pre-service teachers. Students complete coursework that combines theory and practice for a hands-on experience, honing their skills through distinguished internships. Upon graduation, each student-teacher becomes eligible for a Florida professional teaching certificate and gains the opportunity to earn a Master of Education (MEd) in either Collaborative Teaching and Learning or Educational Leadership. Those interested in advancing in their field can pursue a doctoral degree in Education at Florida Southern College. The Doctor of Education is designed for individuals to make new discoveries in their field of interest including higher education, non-profit organizations, government, and others areas while honing in on professional skills. The Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership is designed for individuals interested in playing a critical role in leading and shaping the future of education in colleges and universities, school districts, and public and private schools. Both degrees prepare students for the highest levels of leadership with results that will make a difference in the lives of others.

I am privileged every day to witness the innovative, inspiring, and collaborative efforts our teachers put into our leadership programs. FSC’s School of Education is one of the nation’s best education schools!

Tracey D. Tedder, EdD
Dean of the School of Education
Hollis Endowed Chair of Education
We do more than train teachers. We prepare them to kindle the sparks of imagination.

Whether your dream is to teach a budding Mozart his first notes or to help a future NASA engineer develop her love of calculus, Florida Southern’s comprehensive program in education can help you make that dream come true.

Begin Your Journey in Elementary Education/ESOL K-6

Next, embark upon a curriculum that equips you with the latest pedagogical innovations and time-tested best practices for classroom success. SMART technologies are integrated throughout the program, preparing you to teach in today’s state-of-the-art classrooms. Learning communities have been designed to provide education majors with teaching techniques and strategies at the Roberts Academy, where the art and science of teaching comes to life.

Course concentrations are offered in STEM Education and the Orton-Gillingham Approach — a research-based instructional practice of reading that has proved effective with students with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. These techniques equip you with specialized expertise along with the option of a fifth-year graduate program that allows you to earn your Master of Education in just four semesters.

All education majors complete more than 370 hours of clinical work that is embedded in coursework, and they participate in a full-time internship during their final semester prior to graduation. Students work in the local school district directly with a highly qualified teacher and are supervised by an FSC faculty member.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

All FSC School of Education Elementary Education majors graduate with a state of Florida ESOL endorsement. You will be prepared as a future teacher by earning eligibility for the Florida professional teaching certificate and ESOL endorsement upon graduation.

Dr. Bernardo Blanco, PhD, Associate Professor of Education states, “ESOL instruction is a critical component to the academic and professional growth of our Education majors due largely to the culturally and linguistically diverse school environments in the U.S. and particularly in Florida. ESOL techniques are directly infused into the curriculum, preparing our student-teacher candidates for success.”

Because education majors must pass all parts of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) prior to graduation, you will be immediately eligible for your Florida Professional Teaching Certificate upon graduation.

The wealth of knowledge that I received at Florida Southern College in the Elementary Education program prepared me for my success as a lifelong educator. I have had the opportunity to positively enlighten hundreds of students in my classroom. I have also inspired teachers as a district leader and currently serve as the Senior Director of Professional Development. I am forever grateful for my experience at Florida Southern College.
All Master of Education in Collaborative Teaching and Learning courses are delivered online, allowing professional educators to complete coursework in just four semesters.

ASHLEY BAILEY, MED
FIRST GRADE TEACHER, FRANK E. BRIGHAM ACADEMY
POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

This environment has allowed me to collaborate with colleagues near and far from the convenience of my home. The Florida Southern Master of Education has opened my eyes to a multitude of areas within the field that I had little experience with before. As a graduate of a large university for my undergraduate degree, I cannot emphasize enough how much more personalized the virtual learning education is at Florida Southern.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

FSC graduate education programs prepare you to be an educational leader and classroom innovator.

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
Considering a move into the challenging and rewarding field of teaching? The MAT is designed for those with bachelor’s degrees in a field outside of education. If you have a degree in the arts, humanities, or sciences and want to share your passion for teaching, the MAT will prepare you for a successful career in education. Following the completion of your coursework, you will apply what you’ve learned in a final capstone seminar and internship that will give you the classroom experience you need to start your career as an educator.

Master of Education (MED) in Collaborative Teaching & Learning
This MEd program is designed for educators who currently hold a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate and is focused on further developing the advanced knowledge and accomplished practices of the most professional and career-minded teachers. The curriculum provides both practical knowledge and professional networking opportunities through partnerships with practitioners who work in schools every day.

Master of Education (MED) in Educational Leadership
This MEd program is tailored to practicing teachers who currently hold a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate and provides the next level of skills and credentials possessed by accomplished teachers who seek to lead the education field for the next generations in schools, districts, and beyond.

ASHLEY BAILEY, MED ’16
FIRST GRADE TEACHER, FRANK E. BRIGHAM ACADEMY
POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

“School leadership has never been more challenging than it is now. Therefore, preparation has never been more important. FSC’s Master’s in Educational Leadership offers a blend of engaging face-to-face and online courses designed to optimize and equip you with the skills to positively impact the students and teachers you lead. With support from professors and practicing administrators, you will have the opportunity to apply theory to practice in the field. This 36-credit hour program is unique in its approach and outcomes.”

DR. JULIE HASSON, ED.D
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION
PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR MED IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
For more than 100 years, Florida Southern College has been preparing men and women for rewarding careers in education. Prepare to lead your profession into the future.

Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership

As a student in the EdD program, you will experience robust, active, and faculty-led collaborative projects, providing a rigorous academic program geared toward enriching your leadership, management, and motivational abilities, which are key to success in today’s ever-changing world of education.

Our outstanding faculty brings a wealth of research and practical experience to the courses, preparing you to navigate today’s most complex and challenging issues in education.

A combination of online and face-to-face instruction gives you the flexibility to maintain a busy work schedule while achieving your own academic goals.

Doctor of Education (EdD)

The EdD program integrates the fields of education, business, and public policy to provide diverse knowledge, skills, and experiences. As a doctoral student, you will engage in rigorous study and research under the guidance of expert and highly respected researchers, scholars, and practitioners from varied disciplines. The flexible format allows students to complete the program in two years and qualified candidates may begin working on their dissertation after completing 20 credits so that dissertation research need not wait until you have finished all of your coursework. Graduates possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and resources to have a consequential impact on their organizations and to become exceptional leaders in administration, policy development, college and/or university teaching, or research.

In keeping with Florida Southern College’s history and reputation of excellence, the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership offers quality face-to-face and online courses. With personal support from accessible faculty, you’ll have the opportunity to complete your degree in 30 to 36 months. Join a committed cohort of educational practitioners in learning and research designed to optimize your skills and equip you to make that positive and consequential impact as an educational leader.
The Roberts Academy Distinguished Internship Program offers something you won’t find anywhere else: a comprehensive introduction to the Orton-Gillingham multisensory approach to literacy education.

ADELLA SPIRES, MEd 03  
ASSOCIATE HEAD OF SCHOOL  
ROBERTS ACADEMY AT FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

The instructional approach we use at the Roberts Academy is a research-based, multi-sensory approach called Orton-Gillingham, which is proven to make a significant impact on individuals with dyslexia or on those who have difficulties related to reading, spelling and writing. The positive impact is evident in the daily academic performance and test scores of our students. Perhaps of even greater significance is the increase in self-confidence and self-esteem that we typically observe in students once they come to the Academy. Once students believe in themselves, they meet their potential and their possibilities are limitless. It is very inspirational and rewarding to be a part of the Roberts Academy and to work with such a highly qualified (and dedicated) group of teachers and staff — not to mention our wonderful students!

Early Learning Laboratory

For over 40 years, the Early Learning Laboratory/Preschool at Florida Southern College has provided an engaging, interactive learning environment for students and teachers.

Open to children from the Greater Lakeland community, the preschool lab provides a safe, fun, and dynamic learning environment that prepares young children for school by teaching the foundations of reading and mathematics infused with state-of-the-art instructional technology.

Education majors gain experience by working directly with preschool children, practicing under the guidance of veteran teachers. You will design and implement age-appropriate lessons that meet Florida standards and challenge students using higher-level thinking skills.

Roberts Academy

The Roberts Academy is Florida’s only transitional school for talented children with dyslexia and one of only a few such schools in the nation. Offering a full curriculum for grades two through seven, the Academy’s mission is to prepare students with dyslexia to achieve academic success upon their return to public or private schools.

You will gain firsthand experience in working with children who have reading difficulties through clinical coursework assisting teachers at the Roberts Academy. The Roberts Academy also offers distinguished semester-long internships to FSC education majors.

Roberts Center for Learning and Literacy

The Roberts Center for Learning and Literacy was established to train teachers how to identify learning differences among young students, especially in reading and literacy so that interventions can be implemented as early as possible.

Education majors attend workshops and seminars hosted by the Center and hear from world renowned scholars in the field of dyslexia, sensory-processing challenges, and other learning differences through the Roberts Center Lecture Series.

Teacher Workshop Programs

The Florida Southern College Teacher Workshop Program has supported thousands of teachers in earning and renewing their Florida Professional Teaching Certificate. Completely online, workshops are offered throughout the year and provide the convenience working professionals need to enrich their students’ learning and acquire additional skills and strategies proven effective through research-based techniques. Courses are approved by the Florida Department of Education and have been serving education professionals nationally and internationally for over 20 years.

Roberts Academy

Elementary and Secondary Education majors in the School of Education are able to apply for the Distinguished Internship Program at the Roberts Academy. This program enables our students to gain valuable experiences while teaching, using the specialized Orton-Gillingham multisensory approach to literacy education. The interns work with elementary and middle school students under the direction of an experienced classroom teacher. One of the benefits includes building practical strategies to use with struggling readers.

This internship also strengthens student-teacher interactions and allows future educators to stand out and appeal to potential employers.

JUDY SENZAMICI, MA  
INSTRUCTOR OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF INTERNSHIPS  
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JUDY SENZAMICI, MA  
INSTRUCTOR OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF INTERNSHIPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Visit our website for more information on our programs at www.fl souther n.edu/sage

Attend an information session

Talk to an Admission Counselor about what Florida Southern has to offer you

Complete the FSC application online at www.fsouthern.edu/apply

“Florida Southern’s School of Education provided me with the skills I needed to prepare for my future as a 4th grade teacher. The School of Education supports and motivates their future educators through engaged learning, providing students with the opportunity to apply proven teaching methods in a real-world setting. With the help of the dedicated faculty and the unparalleled combination of academic and real-world knowledge I have received, I am confident that I have become an exceptional educator. I will also be continuing my education at Florida Southern College as I strive to earn my Master’s of Education in Collaborative Teaching and Learning beginning in the spring.

Rebekah Jewell, ’17

“Michael Flynn, Ed.D.

I felt an unmatched level of care for my educational experience and more importantly for my growth as a person and an educator. This caring environment is what sets Florida Southern apart; this is the Florida Southern difference. Go Mocs!

Michael Flynn, Ed.D.