FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

ADULT AND GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Carol Jenkins Barnett Center for Early Childhood Learning and Health and the **Lamar Louise Curry Education Center** are two adjoined campus additions geared to serve our student body.

Our Education Building is Unlike Any Other in the Country.

The Center for Early Childhood Learning and Health brings together nursing and education students to study the interconnectivity of the two disciplines upon early childhood development. A portion of the Center is a uniquely colorful experience for the on-campus preschool students. Meanwhile, the Curry Education Center houses undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral education students offering a state-of-the-art facility.

The two buildings work closely with the Roberts Academy, our campus elementary and middle school catering specifically to students with dyslexia.

A Message from the Dean

It is with great pleasure that I am able to introduce you to the undergraduate and graduate programs designed for the adult learner and offered through the School of Education at Florida Southern College. Continuing your education is a decision that comes with a commitment and dedication to one's field, resulting in potential long-term benefits both personally and professionally. Our School of Education offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees designed for professionals whose careers and passion place them in positions to lead, innovate, serve, and improve education and educational systems for learners of all ages.

Our Elementary Education program is approved by the Florida Department of Education (FL DOE) and results in eligibility to obtain a professional teaching certificate which includes both ESOL and Reading endorsements – credentials that can put you in the classroom immediately upon graduating! Program faculty engage preservice teachers in the college classroom in learning content and pedagogy and in practical experiences in the Polk County Public Schools and in our Lab Schools on campus where preservice teachers practice what they learned in the college classroom under the mentorship of expert and experienced teachers in K-6 classrooms. Graduates of the teacher preparation programs take teaching positions and immediately begin to make a difference in children's lives, contribute to the school and community, and carry on the exceptional reputation of Florida Southern College in their professions.

Each graduate program is designed to address a unique audience though their content and delivery. Our graduate programs are listed below:

- Master of Arts in Transformational Curriculum and Instruction (MAT)
- Master of Education in Transformational Curriculum and Instruction (MEd)
- Master of Education in Educational Leadership (MEd EL)
- Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD EL)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)

Program faculty are selected for their research, expertise, and pedagogical prowess. They design engaging learning experiences that strategically merge theory and practice as students explore research, theory, curriculum, policy, and practice in their coursework. Students and faculty work collaboratively in the classroom, clinical setting, and on research endeavors. Program academic advisors and faculty meet regularly with their students, providing personalized and individualized guidance and mentorship. Our students are nurtured through their programs, both in the classroom and through extra-curricular opportunities related to their studies. Students are also able to hone in on their research, practice skills, and develop knowledge and experiences to contribute to their field that will enhance the experiences of the learners they serve.

Florida Southern has a long and successful history of preparing leaders in education. The outstanding research conducted by our students in their programs and after graduation not only contributes to finding solutions to questions faced in education but also serves as a catalyst for change.

I welcome you to join the School of Education in one of our exceptional adult or graduate programs. As you begin a transformational journey to achieve your academic and professional goals, you will also enjoy the satisfaction of achieving the College's mission of having a positive and consequential impact on society.

Victoria A. Giordano

Victoria A. Giordano, EdD
Dean of the School of Education
Associate Professor of Education

The FSC School of Education Elementary Education program is fully approved by the Florida Department of Education and leads to Elementary K-6 certification, ESOL and Reading Endorsement.

Elementary Education K-6

Our program curriculum equips students with the latest pedagogical innovations and time-tested best practices for classroom success. SMART technologies are integrated throughout the program, preparing students 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.

All education majors complete more than 900 hours of clinical work that are 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.

Course specializations are offered in STEM Education, Social Emotional Learning, and the Orton-Gillingham Approach — a research-based instructional practice of reading that has proven effective with students with dyslexia and other reading difficulties. These techniques equip students with specialized expertise along with the option of a fifth-year graduate program that allows students to earn their Master of Education in just three semesters.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Elementary Education graduates will be eligible for the Florida Department of Education ESOL Endorsement upon earning their degree.

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."

Reading Endorsement

Elementary Education graduates will be eligible for the Florida Department of Education Reading Endorsement upon earning their degree. This distinction will put FSC graduates ahead of the rest through extensive preparation. They will take five reading courses that will satisfy all state of Florida requirements for teaching reading. Throughout the teacher preparation program, clinical experiences in local K-6 public schools allow teacher candidates to work hands-on with K-6 students and professionals in the field.

Mrs. Jacqueline M. Byrd
Superintendent 2016-2021
Polk County School Board

"At Polk County Public Schools, our mission is to provide a high-quality education to our students. To fulfill our mission, we need prepared, professional, talented teachers who are committed to giving their very best to their students each day. Florida Southern College produces exactly the type of teacher we are eager to hire. For this, Florida Southern is both a trusted source of outstanding educators and an invaluable partner to the school district. Go Mocs!"

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

Brooke Veal, MATL
Director of Field Study & Evening Education Programs

I have seen first-hand how the FSC School of Education continues to prepare highly effective teachers through continuous program improvement. Integrating the Reading Endorsement Competencies and Skills throughout the Elementary Education Program is another example of how the School of Education prepares the very best educators.

All Master of Education in Transformational Curriculum and Instruction courses are delivered online, **which conveniently allows professional educators to complete coursework in four accelerated semesters.**

Ashley Bailey, MEd '16
Adjuncy Faculty
Florida Southern College

"This program allowed me to collaborate with colleagues near and far from the convenience of my home. The Florida Southern Master of Education 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."

FSC graduate education programs prepare students to be educational leaders and classroom innovators.

Master of Arts in Transformational Curriculum and Instruction (MAT)

Considering a move into the rewarding field of teaching? The MAT is designed for those with bachelor's degrees in a field outside of education. If students have a degree in the arts, humanities, or sciences and want to share their passion for teaching, the MAT will prepare them for a successful career in education. Following the completion of coursework, students will apply what they've learned in a final capstone seminar and internship that will give them the classroom experience they need to start their career as educators.

Master of Education (MEd) in Transformational Curriculum and Instruction

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, with two years of teaching experience, who currently hold a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate. The curriculum provides the next level of skills and credentials for educators who want to become leaders in their schools, districts, and beyond. The curriculum provides practical knowledge and professional networking opportunities, allowing you to connect with educational professionals who will help you advance your career.

Christopher Harrison, PhD
Assistant Professor of Education
Featured Faculty for the MEd in Educational Leadership

Decades of research tells us that teachers and students are more likely to succeed with the support of highly skilled and learning-centered school leaders. FSC's Master of Education in Educational Leadership program offers a unique 36-credit hour structure, featuring a blend of engaging face-to-face and online courses that are designed to equip candidates with the skills that they need to be effective administrators, change agents, and coaches. Supported by professors and practicing administrators, students will grow their ability to support their teams in the work of evidence-driven decision making, efficient resource management, systems improvement and change leadership, and the development of rigorous, high-quality instructional programs.

For more than 100 years, Florida Southern College has been preparing men and women for fulfilling careers in education.

Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership

Students will experience robust, active, and faculty-led collaborative projects, providing a rigorous academic program geared toward enriching their leadership, management, and motivational abilities. These skills are the keys 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 students to navigate today's complex challenges in education. This degree can increase their knowledge and build their skills to become exceptional leaders in administration, college and/or university teaching, and policy development.

A combination of online and face-to-face instruction gives students the flexibility to maintain a busy work schedule while achieving their own academic goals. By completing the course sequence — two courses per semester — students can complete all of their coursework in two years, plus a dissertation.

Doctor of Education (EdD)

Individuals with academic preparation from diverse disciplines, many with a master's degree outside the field of education, are offered the opportunity to develop skills and experience to lead and implement change through contextualized learning and research excellence. Doctoral students 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 coursework in two years, plus a dissertation. 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.

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Caitlin Byrne, PhD
Assistant Professor of Education
Featured Faculty for the EdD in Educational Leadership

In keeping with Florida Southern College's history and reputation of excellence, the Doctor of Education programs offer quality face-to-face and online courses. With accessible faculty, students have the opportunity to complete their degree with personal support. Join a committed cohort of education practitioners and professionals in learning and research designed to optimize your skills and equip you to make that positive and consequential impact as an educational leader.

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Melanie Fowler, EdD
Assistant Professor of Education
Coordinator, Doctor of Education Programs

"The Doctor of Education programs at Florida Southern College engages students in parallel curricula designed for adults who aspire to make an impact in education and education-adjacent fields. In the EdD in Educational Leadership, our students include teachers, administrators, and policy makers in the K-12 educational system. In the EdD program, the majority of our students serve populations outside of the K-12 classroom and have academic backgrounds from a diverse range of disciplines, creating exceptional opportunities for collaboration and academic research in higher education, non-profit, organizations, government, or private business. Graduates of our programs apply their skills and knowledge to make significant contributions to the academic community and generate positive changes to society."

The Roberts Academy Distinguished Internship Program offers something students won't find anywhere else: a comprehensive introduction to the Orton-Gillingham multisensory approach to literacy education.

Kimberly Kelley, EdD '17
Head of School
Roberts Academy at Florida Southern College

The instructional method at the Roberts Academy is a research-based, multisensory approach called Orton-Gillingham. This approach has been proven to make a significant impact on students with dyslexia and those who struggle in reading, writing, and spelling. The positive impact is evident through a student's daily performance and test scores. Students using this approach show improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem. They begin believing in themselves, meeting their potential and seeing the possibilities of limitless success. It is inspirational and rewarding to be part of the Roberts Academy at Florida Southern College and to work with such a highly qualified and dedicated group of teachers and staff who make an immense impact on the students they teach.

Lab Schools & Recertification

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. Students will design and implement age-appropriate lessons that meet Florida standards and challenge students using higher-level thinking skills. The Early Learning Lab also offers distinguished semester-long internships to FSC education majors.

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 eight, the Academy's mission is to prepare students with dyslexia to achieve academic success upon their return to public or private schools.

Students 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.

Judy Senzamici, MA
Instructor of Education, Director of Internships

Elementary Education majors in the School of Education are able to apply for the Roberts Academy Distinguished Internship Program. This program engages students in valuable teaching experiences using the Orton-Gillingham multisensory approach to literacy. Interns work with elementary and middle school students under the direction of expert Roberts Academy faculty. This internship strengthens student-teacher interactions and provides FSC Education majors the opportunity to practice and build their skills in preparing to be excellent educators. The Distinguished Internship is a one of a kind opportunity only available at Florida Southern College.

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