

Among the top 20 public graduate schools of education in the nation with nationally recognized initial teacher certification programs

### Integrated Bachelor's/Master's Teacher Education Program (IB/M)

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The IB/M program is a five-year teacher preparation program. The most qualified applicants in each teaching program area are admitted annually: up to 15 in secondary education areas & music education, 40 in elementary education, and 20 in special education.

**Certification areas: Elementary Education (Grades 1-6), Comprehensive Special Education (Grades K-12), Music (Grades PK-12), Secondary (Grades 7-12): English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages.**

Program guidelines, FAQs, information session dates, and testing information are online:

<https://advising.education.uconn.edu/>

#### Applicants must:

- Apply by **January 20** of sophomore year; **December 1** for students studying abroad. Transfer students **MUST** apply separately to UConn by **January 15** and to Neag by **January 20**.
- Have earned a competitive cumulative GPA. Applicants with a cumulative GPA below 2.7 must apply for a GPA waiver (*See "How To Apply" on website*).
- Submit an essay describing experiences that have influenced your desire to pursue a career in teaching.
- Participate in a successful group interview with faculty.
- Take **Praxis Core** or meet waiver eligibility by August 1 (prior to junior year).

## Integrated Bachelor's/Master's (IB/M) Teacher Education Program

### Influential Experiences Requirement

**Applicants to the IB/M Program must be able to indicate experiences that have influenced and/or shaped their decision to pursue a career in teaching. These experiences may be in the field of education, relate to working with children, or relate to other work-related experiences that you can connect to teaching and/or learning. Many of these experiences help to develop skills (e.g., organization, collaboration) and traits (e.g., responsibility, responsiveness) that are valuable for future teachers and their students. Other options to include may be meaningful or transformative experiences that have had an impact on your life as it relates to education.** One component of your application to the IB/M Program is your life experience up to this point. We will ask you to describe your experiences in detail as well as what you learned from them.

Working with children will help inform your decision to pursue a career in teaching. Also consider working with diverse populations, including children with special needs and those who are English language learners, experiences in urban settings, as well as in your major area of study (e.g., elementary education, special education, secondary math). Having a range of experiences is perceived as contributing to your overall readiness for teacher education.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, the teacher education program would like students to approach influential experiences with safety in mind.** Your personal experiences are also of tremendous value in shaping who you are as a person. Experiences can be described as anything personal, educational, extra curricular, work-related, volunteer, or travel that has been influential in your life. Teachers draw from their personal experiences, and we look forward to hearing what makes you unique that would allow you to serve your students.

#### **Why do I need education experience?**

Experiences working with children in schools and other educational settings will help you decide if you really want to become a teacher. It can also help us know that you have received adequate exposure to a classroom (or similar) setting and that you want to further your education. If you were not able to obtain experiences in classrooms or with children, help us understand how you came to pursue teaching as your career by sharing some of your other life experiences.

#### **How much experience do I need?**

We will ask that you consider some meaningful experiences and decide on the experiences you would like to share more about in the essay. Although we value a range of experiences, we recognize that you may have had limited opportunities recently. Regardless, your beginning to realize the potential influence any of them have on your future teaching is important.

#### **What kind of classroom experiences should I have?**

The best classroom experiences are in a K-12 school, but these may have taken place in another setting. We are aware that due to COVID-19 restrictions, students may have limited or no access to a K-12 classroom. Typically, experiences can include but are not limited to: working with individual students, small groups, and a whole class; taking on the role of a tutor or teacher assistant; and actively engaging in students' learning of various subject matters.

**Virtual Experiences:** Due to COVID-19 safety measures, the university has adapted the following engagement opportunities:

- [Community Outreach](#) is recommending several [community service day events](#).
- [Husky Sport](#) is a community-campus partnership. Students will have the opportunities to engage in discussions centered on equity in education.
- **K-12 Placements** - Due to COVID-19 restrictions, students may not be able to access K-12 classrooms, in-person or virtually. Typically, students find their own placements, usually during Thanksgiving, winter, and summer breaks. Students independently locate and join volunteer efforts in the community that engage children in learning such as after-school programs, tutoring, and summer programs.