TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAM

The School of Education offers course work leading to initial Colorado licensure to undergraduate, postbaccalaureate and master’s degree students. Colorado requires public school teachers to be licensed by its state department of education. Students who successfully complete all School of Education requirements will be recommended for a Colorado provisional (initial) teaching license, the license issued to all new teachers in Colorado. Licensure requirements vary from state to state and from teaching area to area. Students who are interested in teaching in other states should familiarize themselves with the requirements of those states so they may plan an appropriate degree program.

Teacher education at the University of Colorado, while administered by the School of Education, is a university-wide function. Many academic departments provide course work that supports the teacher in training. Undergraduate students follow a prescribed set of core courses that meet state content preparation standards, complete a major, and satisfy professional education requirements concurrently. The program involves a combination of courses at the university and K–12 school placements.

Undergraduate (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/programs-study/teacher-licensure-program/undergraduate-nondegree) and Post-Baccalaureate (catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/education/programs-study/teacher-licensure-program/post-baccalaureate) (Non-master’s Degree) Teacher Licensure Programs

- Elementary (grades K–6) Education
- Secondary Education (grades 7–12) fields:
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social studies
  - World language (French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian or Spanish)
  - Music Education (grades K–12)

Secondary Master’s Degree Plus Teacher Licensure Program (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/education/programs-study/teacher-licensure-program) (MA+)

- Secondary Education (grades 7–12) fields:
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social studies

Program Mission and Commitments

The School of Education prepares educators who are able to enact commitments to social justice and equitable access to deep content learning in school, family and community contexts.

The following principles guide our work in preparing the next generation of educators:

- Teachers must position students as sense-makers and knowledge-generators, who desire to invest and succeed in school. This involves noticing children/youth, building relationships with them, valuing their perspectives and attending to their thinking, curiosities and capabilities.
- Teaching is both intellectual work and a craft. Deep knowledge of content and pedagogy, creativity and passion fuel both learning and teaching.
- Teachers must design equitable learning environments in which all children are engaged in robust and consequential learning.
- Teacher’s instruction and student learning is always conducted within the context of larger social systems, structures and hierarchies.
- What we do and say matters and must be analyzed. Our language and action construits or constrains opportunities for children to build meaningful, positive and sustained relationships to learning and one another.

Colorado Teacher Quality Standards

Teacher education candidates engage in a planned sequence of courses and accompanying clinical experiences in local community and school sites. Courses and assessments ensure candidates have demonstrated appropriate mastery of (1) content taught in the Colorado Academic Standards and (2) professional practices and dispositions associated with the Colorado Teacher Quality Standards listed below.

1. Teachers demonstrate mastery of and pedagogical expertise in the content they teach.
2. Teachers establish a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment for a diverse population of students.
3. Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction and create an environment that facilitates learning for their students.
4. Teachers reflect on their practice.
5. Teachers demonstrate leadership.
6. Teachers take responsibility for student academic growth.

Admission Requirements

Students who already hold a bachelor’s degree and wish to pursue licensure should apply directly to the School of Education. Students desiring institutional recommendation for licensure must complete at least 30 credit hours of work at the University of Colorado and also must fulfill the same content area requirements as undergraduate students. The actual number of required credit hours will depend on courses already completed.

Students may apply to one of the teacher education programs if the following requirements have been fulfilled:

1. GPA: Elementary and Secondary students must have and maintain a 2.75 (on a 4.00 scale) cumulative GPA, 2.75 at CU Boulder, 2.75 in their subject area (Secondary teacher fields) and 2.75 in education. Music K-12 Education students must have and maintain a 3.00 overall and in their subject area. Students applying to Master’s Plus (MA+) programs must have and maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA.
2. Prior Degrees: Students applying to Post-Baccalaureate and Master’s Plus (MA+) programs must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
3. Youth Experience: Students must provide written verification of 25 clock hours of satisfactory experiences with elementary, middle/junior high or senior high school-aged youth (appropriate to the desired program) in the past five years. Forms for this purpose
are available in the Office of Student Services, Education 151, or online at the School of Education (https://www.colorado.edu/education) website. Undergraduate students at CU Boulder meet this requirement through school experiences in EDUC 2020 Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching or EDUC 2050 Step Up to Social Justice Teaching courses.

4. **Basic Skills**: All teacher education students must demonstrate basic skills competence in mathematics and literacy. This may be done through acceptable grades in appropriate college course work, or by acceptable standardized test scores. Contact the Office of Student Services in Education 151 for more information.

5. **Letters of Recommendation**: Contact the Office of Student Services in Education 151 for more information.

6. **Personal Statement**: Contact the Office of Student Services in Education 151 for more information.

7. **Background Check and Fee**: The School of Education and our partner districts require students working in schools to undergo background checks at least once per year. The costs and process for these background checks are changing due to new state requirements. Check with the Office of Student Services for the most updated information.

8. **Application Fee**: The appropriate application fee should be submitted with application materials. Fees vary by program.

Individuals interested in completing the teacher education program at the University of Colorado Boulder should request application materials from the Office of Student Services, Education 151 or online at the School of Education (http://www.colorado.edu/education) website. Students currently enrolled in a degree program at Boulder will need to complete an application.

Individuals who have completed a baccalaureate degree at an accredited institution and are not currently enrolled at the university must complete a program application, a university application and submit official transcripts from all previous colleges directly to the University’s Office of Admissions (http://www.colorado.edu/admissions).

**Advising**

Students are responsible for obtaining and reading the undergraduate student handbook (https://www.colorado.edu/education/student-life/undergraduate-experience). Off-campus students may obtain advising materials online (https://www.colorado.edu/education/student-life/advising-ambassadors) or by calling 303-492-6555.

At CU Boulder, degree requirements vary among the schools and colleges. Students seeking a degree at the University of Colorado should consult, as soon as possible, with an advisor in the college or school from which they expect to graduate and with the School of Education advisor (https://www.colorado.edu/education/student-life/advising-ambassadors).

Students are encouraged to become familiar with the teacher education requirements by comparing their own transcripts to the published advising materials. Students can then talk with an advisor before applying to the program or they may wait until after their applications are processed. Students seeking teacher licensure in French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish or Music Education should see the designated advisor for that content area in addition to the School of Education advisor.

Advising may also be obtained through email to edadvise@colorado.edu. When requesting email advising, please make questions as specific as possible.