

# Think you want to be a teacher?

Three pathways for undergraduates

- 1 Complete 2 degrees in 5 years!**  
Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's option + teaching license
- 2 Get ready to teach**  
Bachelor's degree + teaching license
- 3 Declare a minor**  
Structured study of education fields



Save time, save money, and  
get a head start on your career!

[cehd.gmu.edu/thinkteacher](http://cehd.gmu.edu/thinkteacher)



**W**hat does it take to be a great teacher? Knowledge, patience, skill, a love of learning, and a desire to make a difference. If this describes you, then a career in education may be just the thing!

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at George Mason University has outlined three pathways for Mason undergraduates who are interested in the education field:

- 1 Complete 2 degrees in 5 years!**
- 2 Get ready to teach**
- 3 Declare a minor**

For in-depth information specific to your goals and situation, please meet one-on-one with a CEHD academic advisor. We can explain how to fulfill university and state academic requirements for becoming a teacher, and much more.

Note that in Virginia, a bachelor's degree and a teaching license and several other requirements are necessary to be an elementary or secondary school teacher in the public schools.

With careful planning, you can chart a path for achieving your goals while an undergraduate. Save time and many thousands of dollars, and also put more opportunities within your reach immediately upon graduation.

**Contact us today!**

The single most important determinant of what students learn is what teachers know. It's why we focus so intently on preparing teachers who understand their subject, the education research, and the potential in every child.

— Mark R. Ginsberg, Dean, College of Education and Human Development



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PHONE 703-993-2080 | E-MAIL [cehd@gmu.edu](mailto:cehd@gmu.edu) | WEB [cehd.gmu.edu/thinkteacher](http://cehd.gmu.edu/thinkteacher)

Complete both a bachelor's degree and a masters of education degree in just five years! While doing so, you'll also fulfill all the academic requirements needed to qualify for a Virginia teaching license.

The Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's option is a fast and smart way to get started on your education career:

- Save a full year of tuition costs—up to \$6,000!
- Eliminate the need to wait and apply separately to graduate school
- Maximize your time and effort by counting courses toward both degrees
- Qualify for higher salaries and more opportunities

You can apply for this option in the second semester of your junior year if you have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Learn more at [cehd.gmu.edu/bam](http://cehd.gmu.edu/bam).



# 1

## Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's option + teaching license

### Complete 2 degrees in 5 years!

If you want to teach...	Grade level	Complete your bachelor's degree in	+ earn a master's degree in	+ meet Virginia's teaching license requirements for
<b>Biology</b>	Middle/high school	BA/BS Biology	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: Biology	Biology
<b>Chemistry</b>	Middle/high school	BA/BS Chemistry	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: Chemistry	Chemistry
<b>Earth science</b>	Middle/high school	BS Earth Science	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: Earth Science	Earth Science
<b>Elementary age children</b>	Elementary school	BA Integrative Studies, Elementary Education	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Elementary Education	Elementary Education PreK-6
<b>English</b>	Middle/high school	BA English	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: English	English
<b>Math</b>	Middle/high school	BA/BS Math	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: Math	Mathematics
<b>Physics</b>	Middle/high school	BS Physics	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: Physics	Physics
<b>Social studies</b>	Middle/high school	BA Integrative Studies, Social Science for Education	MEd Curriculum and Instruction - Secondary Education: History/Social Science	History and Social Science
<b>Special education</b>	PreK-12	Any bachelor's degree	MEd Special Education	Special Education*

\* Be sure to also meet with an advisor in the Special Education program. An icon indicates options that lead to initial teacher licensure.

### Other bachelor's/accelerated master's options

BA/BS Psychology	MS Educational Psychology-Assessment, Evaluation, and Testing
BA/BS Psychology	MS Educational Psychology-Learning, Cognition, and Motivation

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**Earn both a bachelor's degree and a teaching license in just four years!**

You can major in the fields below while fulfilling all the academic requirements needed to qualify for a Virginia teaching license.

This is a great option if you already know you want to be a teacher:

- Eliminate the need to attend graduate school for required education courses
- Save time and tuition costs
- Become academically eligible for a teaching license immediately upon graduation

Contact the undergraduate advisor in your major as early as possible. Some applications are due at the beginning of the second semester of your sophomore year. Learn more at [cehd.gmu.edu/academics/und-licensure](http://cehd.gmu.edu/academics/und-licensure).



**2**

**Bachelor's degree + teaching license**

**Get ready to teach!**

If you want to teach...	Grade level	Complete your bachelor's degree in	While taking additional courses for a	+ meet Virginia's teaching license requirements for
<b>Biology</b>	Middle/high school	BA/BS Biology	Concentration in Biology Education	Biology
<b>Chemistry</b>	Middle/high school	BS Chemistry	Concentration in Chemistry Education	Chemistry
<b>Dance</b>	PreK-12	BA/BFA Dance	Contact the School of Dance prior to your junior year. Note: an additional semester is required.	Dance Arts (PreK-12)
<b>Earth science</b>	Middle/high school	BS Earth Science	Concentration in Earth Science Education	Earth Science
<b>English</b>	Middle/high school	BA English	Minor in Secondary Education	English
<b>Math</b>	Middle/high school	BA/BS Math	Concentration in Mathematics Education	Mathematics
<b>Music</b>	PreK-12	BM Music	Concentration in Music Education	Music Education – Vocal/Choral (PreK-12) Music Education – Instrumental (PreK-12)
<b>Physical education</b>	PreK-12	BS Physical Education		Health and Physical Education (PreK-12)
<b>Physics</b>	Middle/high school	BS Physics	Emphasis in Physics Education	Physics
<b>Theater</b>	PreK-12	BA Theater	Concentration in Theater Education for Theater Arts (PK-12)	Theatre Arts (PreK-12)

An icon indicates options that lead to initial teacher licensure.

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A minor in Education Studies provides a structured way to learn about the education field. It's an opportunity for undergraduate students who are considering teaching to deepen their understanding about education and the learning process.

Other education-related minors are options for students interested in careers in early childhood education, special education, sport coaching, and family services. Some of these are in such high-demand fields that your minor will partially or fully meet state licensure or other professional requirements.


Learn more at [cehd.gmu.edu/academics/minors](http://cehd.gmu.edu/academics/minors).




# 3

## Structured study of education fields

### Declare an undergraduate minor!

		Minimum credit hours	Advantages
<b>Education minors</b>	Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners	15 credits	Partially fulfills the requirements for Virginia licensure in Early Childhood Education (PreK-3) and for Diverse Learners Early Childhood Special Education.
	Education Studies	18–19 credits	Introduces education as a profession and provides an understanding of the learning process.
	Secondary Education, English	21 credits	This state-approved teacher preparation program leads to a Virginia teaching license in English. 
<b>Special education minors</b>	Applied Behavior Analysis	21 credits	Fulfills the requirements to sit for the Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst exam.
	Mild Disabilities	15 credits	Partially fulfills the requirements for the Students With Disabilities Who Access the General Curriculum Graduate Certificate or the master's degree in special education. Tuition and grant funding available.
	Severe Disabilities	15 credits	Partially fulfills the requirements for the Students With Disabilities Who Access the Adapted Curriculum Graduate Certificate or the master's degree in special education. Tuition and grant funding available.
	Visual Impairment and Blindness	18 credits	Partially fulfills the requirements for the Visual Impairments Licensure (PreK-12) Graduate Certificate or the master's degree in special education.
<b>Other minors</b>	Assistive Technology	15 credits	Explores how assistive technology offers new capabilities for individuals with disabilities.
	Coaching	18 credits	Introduces concepts and methods in sport coaching.
	Human Development and Family Science	15 credits	Explores the psychological, social, cultural, and biological development of individuals within their families and the broader society.

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The undergraduate pathways described in this brochure are offered to George Mason University students through collaborations between the College of Education and Human Development and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the College of Science, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

### About CEHD

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at George Mason University offers a comprehensive range of degrees, courses, certificates, and licensure programs on campus, online, and on site.

With more than 120 full-time instructional faculty members, George Mason's teacher preparation and education school is one of the largest and most renowned in Virginia.

CEHD is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). All licensure programs are approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

School photos by Donnie Biggs, courtesy of Fairfax County Public Schools. University photos by Creative Services, George Mason University.



It's a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together.

— Author unknown



George Mason University will verify completion of the requirements of a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) state-approved preparation program at the graduate or undergraduate level. Such verification does not guarantee the issuance of Virginia Collegiate Professional, Postgraduate Professional, or Pupil Personnel license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is solely the student's responsibility to comply with all requirements for licensure by the Commonwealth. Under Virginia law a social security number is required for licensure.



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Discover three pathways for  
undergraduates who are thinking of  
a career in education.



Look inside to chart a path to becoming a teacher while  
a George Mason University undergraduate. Save time,  
save money, and get a head start on your career!