What does the University of Southern Maine offer for teacher certification?

USM students have the opportunity to pursue one or more of the following content areas at the graduate-level:

- Elementary (K-8)
- English (grades 7-12)
- Mathematics (grades 7-12)
- Montessori
- Life Science (biology)(7-12)
- Physical Science (physics/chemistry) (7-12)
- Social Studies (7-12)
- Special Education (K-8, 7-12)
  - Mild to Moderate (282)
  - Moderate to Severe (286)
- World Language (French, Latin, Spanish) (K-12)

What advantages do teacher education students have at USM?

Extensive Classroom Experience

- Students are in K-12 school class rooms early and often throughout their program.
- All students complete at least a year-long internship in two different placement settings.
- Classroom placements work in tandem with teacher preparation courses.
- Classroom placements are located in partner schools.
- Students receive more total class room experience in diverse settings than graduates of other teacher education programs.

Supportive Group Learning

- Faculty strive to create a community of learners.
- Intensive advising occurs with faculty and staff.
- Lifelong friendships and professional support networks are developed.

Resources and Services that USM Offers for Future Teachers

Students pursuing teacher education are required to have multiple field experiences including internship. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a number of workshops and ongoing services that include job preparedness in the field of teaching, how to network, and what principals look for when they hire teachers.

Information Sessions are held throughout the year. See the website for dates and times.
What teacher education options are available at the graduate level?

ETEP (Extended Teacher Education Program)
The ETEP focuses on preparing professional teachers to understand the theory and practice of teaching and learning. Through the degree, students complete all State of Maine requirements for initial teacher certification in either:

9-Month Pathway
The 9-month intensive pathway is a full-time elementary or secondary certification program, beginning in mid-August and continuing through mid-May (33 credits).

13-Month Pathway
The 13-Month pathway spreads the elementary or secondary certification requirements over 13 months. This pathway accommodates individuals who must continue working part-time, or are Educational Technicians. The program year begins in mid-January to the third week in June. Interns return the following fall and spring semesters, ending in early May (33 credits)

Both pathway leads to the M.S. Ed. in Teaching and Learning, or Applied Literacy (additional credits required). Students also have the option of pursuing the 282/286 Special Education certificate by applying to the Abilities and Disabilities Studies program.

Special Education (282 and 286 Pathway)
The special education teacher certification and master’s degree program integrates the requirements for Maine certification as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities (K-8 and 7-12) and a Teacher of Students with Severe Disabilities (K-12).

The 39-credit M.S. in Abilities and Disabilities Studies includes: recommendation for Maine 282 provisional special education teacher certification in one of two areas: (1) 282 K-8 or 7-12, for mild to moderate disabilities, or (2) Maine 286 provisional special education teacher certification, K-12, for severe disabilities.

What types of financial support are available for students?
Education students may be eligible for federal financial aid, teacher loan forgiveness programs and scholarships. There are special programs and scholarships available for students majoring in the STEM disciplines and pursuing teacher certification.

How do I apply?

Application Deadlines:

ETEP (Extended Teacher Education Program)

9-Month pathway:
First round: January 9
(Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for first round)
Second round: March 8
After March 8 Applications may be accepted on a space-available basis until May 3.

13-Month pathway:
Deadline: October 1
Check ETEP website for application deadlines changes:

Special Education Pathway
Rolling with priority deadlines:
• March 1 for summer matriculation,
• Oct 15 for spring matriculation
• May 1 for fall matriculation

USM Graduate Admissions Office
45 Exeter Street, Portland
Mailing address:
USM Office of Graduate Admissions
P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300
TEL: (207) 780-4386 or (800) 800-4USM, ext. 4386
TTY: (207) 780-5646
FAX: (207) 780-4969
Email: gradstudies@usm.maine.edu
http://usm.maine.edu/grad