Thinking about teaching?

Undergraduate level pathways

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

USM students have the opportunity to pursue one of the following content areas at the undergraduate level:

- Art (grades K-12)
- Elementary (K-8)
- English (grades 7-12)
- Mathematics (grades 7-12)
- Music (grades K-12)
- Life Science (biology) (7-12)
- Physical Science (physics/chemistry) (7-12)
- Social Studies (7-12)

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, beginning the second semester of the freshman year.
- 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.

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.

Superior Liberal Arts Preparation
- Students major in a content area in either the liberal arts or sciences with extensive preparation in the content areas of elementary, middle, and high school where they intend to teach.
- Students complete more courses in the content areas they will teach than graduates of four-year teacher education programs.
USM undergraduate students pursue their major through the colleges of Lewiston-Auburn; Management and Human Service; Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and Science, Technology and Health, and then choose the content area for their teaching based on the major. In addition to completing the major students take professional courses defined by their certification area. This includes introduction to education, teaching methods, and student teaching. Students identify early in their major if they want to pursue teacher certification. At the end of the students’ undergraduate career at USM, students will have a bachelor degree, major, and teacher certification in a content area attached to their major.

What resources and services does USM offer for future teachers?

Students pursuing teacher education are required to have multiple field experiences including student teaching. 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.

What USM majors offer teacher education pathways?

- Art Education
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Environmental Science
- French
- Geography-Anthropology
- History
- Math
- Music Education
- Natural and Applied Sciences (at LAC)
- Physics
- Self-designed STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)

What types of financial support are available for students?

Education students may be eligible for federal financial aid, teacher loan forgiveness programs and scholarships.

Master’s Level Pathways

Students who complete their undergraduate certification at USM are eligible for master’s pathways designed for them in special education, English as a second language, literacy education, and professional educator.