

Gifted & Talented Instruction

Graduate Certificate Program

This graduate certificate is designed for the mainstream classroom teacher who needs to take a proactive approach to creating constructive challenges for gifted and talented students. Learn techniques that will help you be responsive to the unique needs of your students. Differentiated instruction is a concept that, now more than ever, is needed to respond effectively to growing demands in your career.

Program Outcomes

The Graduate Certificate Program in Gifted and Talented Instruction will help mainstream classroom teachers:

1. Explain the aspects of development unique to the gifted student that affect the learning process.
2. Accommodate academic and intellectual diversity within the classroom and community.
3. Use a variety of differentiated instructional strategies to meet the needs of gifted students; and
4. Plan curriculum-based and student-based instruction and interventions that challenge the full continuum of giftedness found within your classroom.

Certificate Requirements 15 cr.

Faculty

The faculty and advisors for the programs have earned doctorates or master's degrees. Faculty are selected for their educational and professional experience and expertise and proven ability to teach adult students.

Course Descriptions

GESP680

Gifted and Talented Learners (3 cr.)

This course overviews the history of gifted education; characteristics of the gifted learner; major theories and delivery models; strategies for serving gifted learners, and an examination of the myths associated with giftedness. The unique needs of the gifted learner in a variety of settings are examined. Methods to serve as advocates for these students and their families are explored.

GESP681

Social and Emotional Needs of Gifted and Talented Learners (3 cr.)

This course examines the social and emotional challenges gifted students face inside and outside the school setting. Strategies to help gifted students understand and value their gifts and talents are examined. Strategies to help teachers design appropriate instruction to meet the social and emotional learning needs of gifted students are explored.

GESP682

Program Design for Gifted and Talented Learners: Advanced Differentiation (3 cr.)

In this course curricular and instructional design, educational taxonomies, and critical and creative thinking strategies for gifted learners are explored. Differentiated lesson plans and individual educational plans for the gifted learner are examined.

GESP683

Creativity for Gifted and Talented Learners (3 cr.)

The history and theory of creativity related to gifted and talented learners are examined in this course. The types of creativity exhibited by gifted and talented learners are identified and analyzed. Strategies for developing the creativity of gifted and talented students are explored.

GESP684

Multicultural Giftedness and Talent (3 cr.)

In this course students examine redefined constructs and paradigms regarding gifted and talented identification and programming for students in under-represented populations including children from diverse linguistic, geographic, economic, and cultural backgrounds. In addition, twice - exceptional populations (ADHD, Prodigies, Highly Gifted) are examined.

Gifted & Talented Instruction for Mainstream Teachers

Admission Requirements

This Graduate Certificate Program is for mainstream classroom teachers who have earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree and who are interested in learning more about how to work effectively with gifted and talented students in their classrooms.

1. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution and must have maintained an overall GPA of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale. If GPA is below 2.75 or GPA is not available, provisional status may be granted.
2. A teaching license is not required.
3. Certificate courses may be taken concurrently with the degree in the Master of Arts in Education program or applied to the degree at a later date. Please consult with the program director.

Application Process

Applications are accepted at any time, and once admitted, participants may begin during any one of the three semesters, subject to availability. Applicants must submit:

1. Application for Admission Form to Saint Mary's University with a nonrefundable fee of \$25; and
2. Official transcript from a regionally accredited institution posting the applicant's highest degree, or a copy of teacher's license.

Accreditation

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association, <http://www.ncahlc.org/>.

Student Conduct

Students are expected to comply with the legal and ethical standards of Saint Mary's University. Academic dishonesty and non-academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary action. Specific instances of misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information to the university, and forging or altering university documents or academic credentials.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota adheres to the principle that all persons have equal opportunity and access to admission, employment, facilities, and all programs and activities of the university regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, or disability. Address questions to: Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, 507-457-1587.

University Policy

Saint Mary's University reserves the right to revise, supplement, and otherwise amend the policies, procedures, or fees contained in this brochure and the university catalog. The university further reserves the right to cancel programs and courses for any reason. The university also reserves the right to change the curriculum and may make such changes without notice to students. This brochure should not be read as a guarantee of the classes or courses set out herein.

About Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota is dedicated to advancing the educational and career goals of today's students. Saint Mary's has more than 5,000 students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs in Winona, the Twin Cities, greater Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nairobi, Kenya. At Saint Mary's residential campus in Winona, the undergraduate College curriculum combines traditional liberal arts and sciences with career preparation in a student-centered environment. The Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs is one of the largest graduate schools in Minnesota. A pioneer in outreach education since 1984, it creates communities of learning when and where they are needed, serving both adult learners and the educational needs of society.

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