

The Princeton University Program in Teacher Preparation (Teacher Prep) offers an interdepartmental course of study for undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni who choose to become fully prepared and certified to teach at the middle and secondary levels in art, English, mathematics, music, the sciences, social studies, or world languages. Founded in 1967, the program is comprised of a unique mix of coursework, seminars, laboratory experience, field work, and practice teaching. The program, approved by the New Jersey Department of Education and nationally accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, allows students to explore teaching as a career option within the context of a liberal arts education.

Teacher Prep is one of nearly fifty certificate programs offered at the University. Certificate programs at Princeton are the equivalent of minors at other universities and allow students to pursue a focused, often interdisciplinary, study that supplements the work in their concentrations (majors). Program completers are qualified to earn the Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing, the initial New Jersey State teaching license.

Princeton University enjoys the privilege of working with some of the world's finest and most capable students. The University, considered one of the most selective in the country, typically offers admission to less than eight percent of applicants. Students are admitted from nearly every state, international students comprise approximately eleven percent of the student body, and sixty percent of students receive financial aid. Evidence submitted for accreditation confirms that Teacher Prep students reflect the academic level of their peers at Princeton in terms of overall grade point average. Princeton University has a grading policy which provides a common standard for every academic department in which an A is reserved for exceptional academic work.

The Program typically graduates between 10 and 20 students per year. A unique and practice-oriented approach allows program students to work in small groups with local practitioners, appointed as Content Instruction Specialists, throughout their preparation to expand their knowledge of subject-specific pedagogy. Every student in the program receives substantial individual support as advisors, instructors, Content Instruction Specialists, cooperating teachers, and supervisors work as a team to achieve the goal of enabling students to competently and confidently enter the teaching profession.

Nearly 85 percent of students completing the program from the fall of 2010 to the spring of 2013 found employment as a teacher within one year. Those students

took jobs in both public and private schools, in New Jersey and across the country, and several took positions teaching in other countries (some of the latter are teaching at the post-secondary level). The remaining 15 percent of the alumni chose to work in related fields or outside of education. Nine out of ten surveyed employers of program graduates from 2009 to 2013 rated Teacher Prep graduates as advanced proficient or superior (the top two of five levels) as compared to other teachers with similar experience.