



## **Creighton University**

### **Rule 20**

#### **Institution and Educational Preparation Program Contextual Information**

### **Section 1.a.: Institutional Background**

#### **Creighton University**

Creighton University (Creighton) is a Catholic and Jesuit comprehensive university committed to excellence in its selected undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. Comprised of nine colleges and schools, the University is accredited by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) (HLC) and is a member of the [Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities](#) (AJCU).

As a Jesuit Institution, Creighton participates in the tradition of the Society of Jesus, which provides an integrating vision of the world that arises out of a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. Creighton exists for students and learning. Members of the Creighton community are challenged to reflect on transcendent values, including their relationship with God, all in an atmosphere of freedom of inquiry, belief and religious worship. Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton. Creighton faculty members conduct research to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society, and to discover new knowledge. Faculty and staff stimulate critical and creative thinking and provide ethical perspectives for dealing with an increasingly complex world.

#### **The Department of Education**

Creighton's initial and advanced educator preparation programs are administered through the Education Department, which is housed within the College of Arts and Sciences. The Education Department benefits from the expertise of 14 full-time faculty members, and its programs are supported by one administrative assistant. The Department offers programs that prepare students in 16 initial and advanced endorsement areas. Its teacher preparation programs are currently accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation [CAEP]<sup>1</sup>, and all of the Education Department's endorsement programs are approved by the Nebraska Department of Education. The Department of Education embraces Creighton's mission by empowering teachers, administrators, and counselors to transform the lives of their students by preparing graduates to be compassionate and effective leaders in the Jesuit tradition. The Department aims to graduate women and men who build a better world by living and leading according to these charisms (values):

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<sup>1</sup> Creighton's CAEP accreditation will expire at the end of the 2025 calendar year. We are not going to be renewing our CAEP accreditation, and have opted instead to work exclusively with the Nebraska Department of Education for EPP program approval.

- Reflective practice (contemplation in action),
- Care for others (*cura personalis*),
- Promotion of service, justice, and inclusive community (men and women for and with others),
- Sharing gifts for the greater good and the greater glory of God (*magis, ad maiorem Dei gloriam*).

With each of our programs, it is the Department's hope that students will feel its commitment to professional formation and support as well as being known for:

- Placing the Jesuit charisms and Ignatian pedagogy at the center of all coursework.
- Emphasizing social justice so that our graduates are formed to lead in highly diverse schools.
- Providing specialized preparation so that our graduates are ready to serve students with diverse needs and backgrounds in P-12 schools.
- Providing specialized preparation for those who wish to serve in Catholic schools.

### Programs Offered

At the undergraduate level, the department offers one degree in elementary education, a minor in education (providing eligibility for a student to substitute teach), and an accelerated bachelor's-to-master's degree for students interested in secondary school teaching or educational specialist area master's degree. At the graduate and professional level, the department offers degrees in Elementary School Teaching, Secondary School Teaching, Educational Leadership, School Counseling, and Educational Specialist Areas. Additionally, the department has several graduate certificates students can earn independently or as a component of their graduate degree: Catholic School Leadership, Early Childhood Education, English as a Second Language, Sports Leadership, and Teacher Leadership.

### Student Demographics - University, Initial Programs, and Advanced Programs

	2022-2023			2023-2024		
	Creighton University  N = 8,397	Education Department: Initial Programs  N = 55	Education Department: Advanced Programs  N = 89	Creighton University  N = 8,255	Education Department: Initial Programs  N = 43	Education Department: Advanced Programs  N = 68
Student Ethnicity						
White	5,904	47	65	5,672	36	56
Hispanic	735	6	4	781	3	7
Black or	270	1	4	260	1	4

African American						
Native American	24	0	1	28	0	0
Two or More Races	425	0	4	451	0	0
Asian	735	1	5	768	2	1
NHOPI	11	0	0	15	0	0
Not Specified	99	0	6	100	1	0
<b>Student Gender</b>						
Female	4,982	40	68	4,913	31	50
Male	3,415	15	21	3,342	12	18
<b>Student Home State</b>						
Nebraska	1,772	28	21	1,743	19	20
Other States or Locations	6,395	27	68	6,512	24	48

#### Section 1.b.: List of Endorsement Programs and Levels

Field Endorsements	Initial	Advanced
Art (PK-12)	✓	
Business, Marketing and Info Technology (6-12)	✓	
Elementary Education (K-6)	✓	
English Language Arts (7-12)	✓	
Mathematics (6-12)	✓	

Principal (PK-12, PK-8, 7-12)		✓
School Counselor (PK-12, PK-8, 7-12)	✓	✓
Science (7-12)	✓	
Social Science (7-12)	✓	
<b>Subject Endorsements</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
History (7-12)	✓	
Religious Education (7-12)	✓	
Secondary English (7-12)	✓	
World Language - French (7-12)	✓	
World Language - Spanish (7-12)	✓	
<b>Supplemental Endorsements</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
Early Childhood Education (PK-3)		✓
English as a Second Language (PK-6, 7-12)		✓

### **Section 1.c.: Significant Teacher Education Program Changes**

#### **BS in Elementary Education - Advanced Bachelors to Masters Program (4+1)**

The Elementary Program developed an accelerated bachelor's to master's program in February 2020. This combination of degrees would provide a skill set that sets these students apart and makes them more marketable in their field. Students begin working on the master's degree during their final semesters as an undergraduate student. By earning 12 graduate credit hours before graduation, students have several options; they can opt to pursue a graduate certificate or endorsement in one of the five areas offered in our educational specialist areas or earn a master's degree with a concentration in two areas of their choice, taking an additional 24-hours of master's level course work post-graduation.

Additionally, *EDU 299: Educational Assessment and Measurement*, was changed from three to four credit hours. This change was made to allow extra time for students to study and retain important math concepts necessary for certification as well as align the department's course requirements with the University's core curriculum; Six credit hours in math are required by the Nebraska Department of Education and the general math course (EDU 205) for non-health major students at Creighton is 2 hours. This 4-credit hour course allows students to meet the 6 hour goal more explicitly.

The Elementary Program also created a new course for its sequence, *EDU 584 Advanced Pedagogy and Differentiated Instruction*. This course was added to the program of study to develop teachers' skills in enhancing learning for all students by responding to their particular learning needs, strengths, and preferences. Instructional practices for differentiated instruction and culturally responsive pedagogies are a focus. Students also write an action research paper and study educational research methods. This course is usually offered for candidates who are student teaching in the fall of their senior year.

### **MS in Educational Specialist Areas**

The Master of Science in Educational Specialist Areas was created in the Fall of 2018. This degree is a stackable master's program, allowing students to choose 2 specialty areas (graduate certificates) to complete to earn this degree. Initial specialty areas offered included Early Childhood Education, Teacher Leadership, and Catholic School Leadership. An English as a Second Language (ESL) certificate was added Fall 2019 and Sports Leadership was added Fall 2021.

### **Secondary Education**

In 2019, due to declines in enrollment, we initiated a sunset of our undergraduate secondary education program. The last undergraduate students graduating with a secondary education co-major graduated in 2023. This decision was made at the request of the Dean's office due to low enrollment in specific secondary education classes. Our secondary education program is now exclusively for graduate students who pursue an MEd in Secondary School Teaching. This is a 14-month program where students spend an entire year in a school placement. The first semester includes a daily practicum while the second semester is clinical practice.

In 2021 we initiated our Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Degree program (ABM) for secondary education. Undergraduate students who are interested in the MEd can apply during their junior or senior year. If accepted, they can earn up to 9 credits towards their MEd by taking graduate-level courses during their undergraduate experience. This allows students to access undergraduate financial aid, easing their financial burden while they begin to satisfy the requirements for the MEd during their undergraduate experience. Students then take an additional year to complete their MEd.

### **Creation of an Education Minor**

In 2019 the Education Department initiated an undergraduate Minor degree that is 18 credits. For those seeking secondary certification through Creighton's M.Ed. program, the minor

includes the 9 credits of the ABM that may be put toward their M.Ed. if they apply to the program and fulfill the graduate-level course requirements.

The Education Minor also includes the requisite 9 credits for Creighton's Heider College of Business Kingfisher Concentration. The Kingfisher Concentration is an attempt by the Heider College of Business to further engage their business students with the liberal arts for at least 3 additional courses (9 credits) in hopes that the business students then take 3 more courses in the same area and earn an 18-credit minor, in this case, the Education Minor.

## **Section 1.d. Anticipated Program and/or Endorsement Changes**

### **Secondary Education**

In 2023, we were authorized by the Nebraska Department of Education to be a teacher certification program. This allows our program to provide opportunities for students with enough credits in any endorsement area (as outlined by Rule 24) to take their pedagogical coursework through our MEd program to be eligible for certification. We are in the process of implementing this for the upcoming cohort, beginning in June, and we are now working through the details with our department and enrollment management.

The secondary teacher preparation program, which currently has both on-campus and online components, is currently considering transitioning the program to be fully online.

### **Not Renewing CAEP Accreditation for Initial Programs**

Finally, after our previous CAEP accreditation process in 2018, our department engaged in extensive reflection and discernment regarding accreditation. This process included study of accreditation landscape, review of approaches taken by peer institutions, and consultation with the Graduate School dean's office. The result of this discernment was a departmental decision to not renew its CAEP accreditation in 2025. Moving forward, Creighton's initial and advanced educator preparation programs will seek program approval exclusively with the Nebraska Department of Education.

### **Supporting Documents:**

[Creighton University Mission Statement](#)

[College of Arts and Sciences Mission Statement](#)

[Education Department Statement of Purpose](#)

[Initial and Advanced Program Conceptual Frameworks](#)