

# PREPARING TO TEACH ABROAD, CERTIFICATE

The Certificate in Preparing to Teach Abroad prepares undergraduate students interested in teaching beyond the U.S. to develop essential skills for engaging diverse learners in various educational settings. The program prepares students to teach a variety of subject matters including and beyond academics that revolve around student interests and job-site demands. It fosters skills for working with a wide age range spectrum from children to adults and builds confidence in entering new spaces, asking critical questions, and designing robust lessons that meet expected learning goals. Students will engage with multiple models of culturally responsive teaching while critically examining challenges to such models in different global contexts.

Through this certificate, students will explore the complexities of formal and informal education beyond U.S. pedagogical frameworks, identifying and analyzing both mainstream and contested narratives about education in non-U.S. settings and their implications for lesson planning. Coursework and field experiences will provide opportunities to:

- Prepare culturally responsive lessons and participate in cross-cultural field experiences, considering the role of power in constructions such as race, gender, disability, socioeconomic status (SES), and language.
- Examine educational thought in both informal and formal education settings, reflecting on how different traditions and systems shape teaching and learning.
- Engage in fieldwork in U.S. settings in person and in non-U.S. settings virtually to reflect on issues of teaching, curriculum, and learning across cultural contexts.
- Analyze power relations in education, paying close attention to colonial legacies, hierarchies, and assumptions about difference that emerge in cross-cultural teaching.

The certificate is open to all domestic and international undergraduate students seeking to develop skills in analyzing cultural contexts, planning instruction, designing curriculum, and teaching in professional communities beyond the U.S. While it does not lead to a K-12 public school teaching license, it enhances competitiveness for international teaching positions and strengthens applications for Fulbright ETA, Peace Corps, international internships, and study abroad programs.

The certificate is also a gateway to post-undergraduate study opportunities in education. Its content is not restricted by state-based teacher education requirements, making it valuable preparation for graduate programs and teaching assistantships in the field of education more broadly.