

Thank you for your interest in Point-Park University's graduate Master's and Certification programs. We are pleased to bring our graduate programs to your local area--cohorts will be offered online beginning in March 2027. Tuition for these programs includes a **discounted tuition for teachers**, and space in each cohort is limited. Once you submit your application (Step 1 below), I will be able to hold your place in class until your application file is complete.

This packet includes all of the information that you will need to be admitted into the program. Read through this packet carefully, and be sure to contact me if you have any questions. My team and I are committed to guiding you through the application process. Choosing where to go to graduate school is an important step, and I want to help you in any way that I can. You can reach me by phone at **(412) 887-1477** or by email at [cweidinger@graduateprogram.org](mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org).



**NOTE:** To maximize the learning environment, PPU prefers to limit class sizes to an average of 15 students. An early application is encouraged to reserve your spot.

**Complete step 1 below to reserve your seat in this program.**

Apply online at <http://www.graduateprogram.org/point-park/application-checklist> for faster processing.

**1**

### Application for Graduate Admission (Pages 3-4)



Submit your [application online](#) or complete pages 3 through 4 and return by fax to **(800) 504-7618**.

Once you have reserved your seat, turn to **Page 2** or visit the [online checklist](#) to complete the remaining admission steps.

Congratulations on your pursuit of a Master's degree with Point Park University!

Sincerely,

**Caitlyn Weidinger**

Graduate Information Office

(412) 887-1477

[cweidinger@graduateprogram.org](mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org)

## 2 Financial Aid and Payment Options (Pages 5-6)

Determine how you plan to pay for the program: Financial Aid or Pay-As-You-Go. If using Financial Aid, complete the FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.gov>. It is in your best interest to complete the financial aid process as early as possible.



## 3 Official Transcripts (Page 7)

Arrange for all official, sealed transcripts from any post-secondary schools attended to be sent to the address below. Official electronic transcripts can be sent to [gradadmission@pointpark.edu](mailto:gradadmission@pointpark.edu).



## 4 Current Resume

You may submit your resume directly to the Graduate Information Office [online](#). Your resume can also be e-mailed, faxed, or mailed (see below).



## 5 Statement of Purpose

A statement of purpose is required which addresses how your professional experience and career goals relate to graduate study. You may upload your completed essay to using our [online system](#). If you prefer, you may choose to email your essay to [cweidinger@graduateprogram.org](mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org).



## 6 Identity Verification

Applicants for the online program must submit a personal photo and a picture of a government-issued photo ID for identity verification purposes. Allowable file types: .jpg, .tiff, .gif, .doc, .docx, .pdf. You may upload your photos using our online system, or email them as attachments to [cweidinger@graduateprogram.org](mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org).



### Dance Education M.A./M.Ed. Additional Step:

## \* Artistic Portfolio

Required ONLY for Dance Education applicants who do not have a bachelor's degree in dance: Dance Resume, 1-2 paragraph statement of intention describing how this program fits into your career plan, 5-10 minute video of choreography and a 5-10 minute video of teaching from the last 5 years. 1.All portfolio materials must be submitted online through Acceptd – click to begin (Please link Acceptd to: <https://app.getacceptd.com/pointpark>) 2.On the left hand side of the page, in the dropdown below "Get Started," select Term of Entry - Fall 2025, Area - Dance Education, Program - M.Ed. in Dance Education. 3.To the right you can then view the artistic portfolio guidelines and requested components. You'll need to create a free account to begin the online submission process (just provide an email and establish a password). 4.Click Submit Materials to upload.



#### Point Park University

Graduate and Online Admission Office  
ATTN: Lynn Ribar  
201 Wood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222



[cweidinger@graduateprogram.org](mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org)



(800) 504-7618

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name  First  Middle  Last

Preferred First Name

Mailing Address  Country  Street  City  State  Zip Code

Primary Phone  ( )  Mobile Phone  ( )  Work Phone  ( )

Email Address

Citizenship Status ☐ Citizen of U.S. ☐ Resident Alien Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

Social Security Number - required for Financial Aid (NNN-NN-NNNN)  -  -

Date of Birth (Necessary for financial aid processing)

## RACE/ETHNICITY REPORTING

To meet newly revised federal requirements on the collection and reporting of race/ethnicity, please answer the following two questions even if you have previously provided this in the former one-question format.

Are you Hispanic/Latino? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ I prefer not to respond

Regardless of how you responded above, please select one or more races:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American  
☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

## MILITARY SERVICE HISTORY

- Are you a United States Veteran? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Are you eligible to receive Veteran's education benefits? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Are you a dependent of a Veteran? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Are you currently on active duty? ☐ No ☐ Yes

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Employer Name  Position/Title

Employment Status ☐ Full Time ☐ Part Time ☐ Unemployed ☐ Self Employed

Does your employer have a tuition benefits program for which you qualify? ☐ No ☐ Yes

## ACADEMIC HISTORY

Enter the **most recent** post-secondary institution that you attended.  
 Official copies of **ALL** college/university transcripts are required for an admission decision to be made on your application.

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| College/University Name <input type="text"/>                                                                                                                                           | Start Date <input type="text"/> | End Date <input type="text"/> |
| Will the name on your official transcript differ from the name on this application? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="text"/> <small>Name</small> |                                 |                               |
| College/University Name <input type="text"/>                                                                                                                                           | Start Date <input type="text"/> | End Date <input type="text"/> |
| Will the name on your official transcript differ from the name on this application? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="text"/> <small>Name</small> |                                 |                               |
| College/University Name <input type="text"/>                                                                                                                                           | Start Date <input type="text"/> | End Date <input type="text"/> |
| Will the name on your official transcript differ from the name on this application? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="text"/> <small>Name</small> |                                 |                               |
| College/University Name <input type="text"/>                                                                                                                                           | Start Date <input type="text"/> | End Date <input type="text"/> |
| Will the name on your official transcript differ from the name on this application? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="text"/> <small>Name</small> |                                 |                               |

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Cohort Program**
- ☐ M.Ed. in School Leadership (with Principal Certificate K-12)
  - ☐ Principal Certificate Only K-12
  - ☐ M.Ed. in Teaching and Leadership
  - ☐ M.A. in Special Education (with PK-12 Special Education Certification for certified teachers)
  - ☐ M.Ed. in Special Education (with PK-12 Special Education Certification for non-certified educators)
  - ☐ M.Ed. Athletic Coaching and Administration
  - ☐ Superintendent Letter of Eligibility
  - ☐ M.Ed. in Reading and Literacy (with Reading Specialist Certification PK-12)
  - ☐ Reading Specialist Certification-Only PK-12
  - ☐ M.Ed. in PK-4 Certification
  - ☐ M.Ed. in Secondary Certification 7-12
  - ☐ M.Ed. PK-12 Dance Education
  - ☐ M.Ed. in Learning, Design, and Technology
  - ☐ M.A. Dance Education
  - ☐ Instructional Technology Specialist Certification-Only
  - ☐ Online Instruction Endorsement-Only
  - ☐ Artificial Intelligence Endorsement
  - ☐ STEM Endorsement PreK-12
  - ☐ Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness Endorsement of Students PK-12

**Cohort Location** ☐ Online **Term** ☐ Spring 2027 - March 14

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Have you applied to Point Park University before?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| Are you interested in applying for financial aid?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  |
| Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at an education institution you have attended whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct that resulted in your probation, suspension, removal, dismissal or expulsion from the institution? | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes* |
| Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony or other crime?                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes* |

\*If yes, please explain:

## REGISTRATION AGREEMENT & CERTIFICATION

Point Park University reserves the right to admit or deny any applicant based on appropriate criteria. An interview is not required as part of the admission process, but under certain circumstances an interview may be requested by the admission committee in order to arrive at an admission decision.

I certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate. I understand that falsifying any of this information may result in cancellation of my application or dismissal from the University. I authorize the use of my transcripts by the appropriate personnel in evaluating my application to the University. Additional requirements for each program may also exist.

As part of the cohort program, I understand that I will be registered for the entire cohort and remain registered unless written notification is submitted to the School of Education and the University Registrar before the beginning of each course. I acknowledge that I am financially responsible for all charges in the event of withdrawal from classes, as outlined in Point Park University's current tuition refund policy.

Signature

Date

Complete all steps below to apply for financial aid. **Note: There are financial aid options that are not based on need.** Most students use financial aid to pay for their program. We recommend that you complete these steps as soon as possible to make sure that your payment arrangements are in order by the first night of class. For help, please contact the Financial Aid Office at **(412) 392-3930**.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID:

- 1 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).** Students should submit the 2026-2027 form. You will need your 2024 Federal Tax Return, your FSA ID (<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>) and Point Park University's School Code (003357). Graduate students are considered independent for financial aid purposes.
- 2 Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy.** You will receive this form 7-10 days after the FAFSA is submitted. If there are any errors on your SAR, log back into your FAFSA to make corrections.
- 3 Log in to PointWeb to view your financial aid award from Point Park once you have been academically admitted.** This lists the financial aid that you qualify for. If you wish to decline all or a portion of the award, notify the Financial Aid Office in writing. Be sure to contact the Financial Aid Office if you have any questions about your award.
- 4 Complete Loan Entrance Counseling and the Master Promissory Note.** Entrance Counseling is only required for first time Federal Direct Loan borrowers; all borrowers must complete a Master Promissory Note. Both can be completed at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) (you will need your FSA ID from Step 1).

Questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office at **(412) 392-3930** or [financialaid@pointpark.edu](mailto:financialaid@pointpark.edu)

### FEDERAL LOAN REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to borrow funds under the Federal Direct Loan Program, you must:

1. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
2. Be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
3. Not be in default on prior educational loans
4. Maintain satisfactory academic progress

### THE FEDERAL (TITLE I) TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM:

If you and your school qualify, this program may provide loan forgiveness for eligible Federal Direct Loans. This is a separate program requiring separate forms and processes. The U.S. Department of Education will determine your eligibility for this program; Point Park University is not responsible to verify your eligibility for this program. Please do not base your enrollment on this program, as it can be difficult to ensure qualification for government programs which are subject to reform and funding changes.

You must call **1-800-4-FED-AID** to verify your eligibility or visit <https://studentaid.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher> for an application.

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to students who are completing coursework towards certain high-need fields. In order to be eligible for a grant, a student must submit a FAFSA form and sign an Agreement to Serve as a full-time teacher at certain low-income schools and within certain high-need fields for at least four academic years within eight years after completing (or ceasing enrollment in) the course of study for which the candidate received a grant. The U.S. Department of Education will determine your eligibility for this program. The TEACH Grant converts to an unsubsidized Direct Loan if the student fails to complete any part of his or her obligation. This loan must be repaid. Visit [studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchTeach.action](http://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchTeach.action)

Point Park University offers interest-free payment plan options. These payment options help to make your graduate degree more affordable by dividing your balances evenly over several months.

## HOW TO ENROLL IN A PAYMENT PLAN:

- 1 Login to your PointWeb account at <https://pointweb.pointpark.edu>.** You will not be able to sign up for a payment plan until you have been registered for courses. Click on the "Students" Tab and then click "Student Accounts" located on the left to view your current statement.
- 2 Select a Payment Plan.** From the "Student Accounts" section, go to "Forms" and select either "Annual" or "Semester" payment plan. Students starting a hybrid cohort in the fall can choose either an Annual or Semester payment plan. An Annual plan divides a student's total balance for the fall and spring semesters into 10, 9, or 8 monthly payments. A fall semester plan divides a student's fall semester balance into 5 or 4 monthly payments. Cohort students starting in the spring can choose to divide their spring semester balance into 4 monthly payments. Students enrolled in fully online programs have the option to enroll in a term payment plan that divides each 8-week course into two monthly payments.
- 3 Submit your Online Enrollment Form with Electronic Signature.** When your online form is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail confirming that your request has been sent to the Office of Student Accounts. You will also receive a calculated payment plan worksheet via your Point Park e-mail and mailing address on file. To complete your enrollment in the payment plan, you will make your first payment, including a one-time non-refundable enrollment fee.

**Questions? Contact the Office of Student Accounts at (412) 392-3424 or [studentaccounts@pointpark.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@pointpark.edu).**

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If your tuition will be reimbursed by your employer, Point Park is pleased to offer you deferred payments. Please note the amount deferred is limited to the amount reimbursed by your employer. For deferred payment schedule and more information, please visit [www.pointpark.edu/employerreimbursement](http://www.pointpark.edu/employerreimbursement).
- If you are using financial aid to pay for tuition, you must be enrolled and fully admitted to the program of your choice before your student loan funds can be released. You may be required to make payments until your financial aid funds are released.

Point Park University requires official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities, showing a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75. If you have copies of your transcripts available, they can be submitted as unofficial transcripts to expedite the admission process; however, official, sealed transcripts are required in order to be fully admitted to Point Park University. To be considered official, transcripts must be unopened and come directly from the issuing institution/credential service to us. Please follow the steps below to request transcripts from every school that you have attended

## TO ORDER TRANSCRIPTS:

There are multiple ways to request transcripts, and each college or university will have their own process.

Typically, the easiest way to order official transcripts is:

- 1 Contact the Registrar's office at your previously attended school, either by phone, e-mail, or through your university's website.
- 2 Submit a transcript request following that school's procedures. Most colleges and universities require a signature or other official request in writing. Many schools have a Transcript Request Form available to download on the Registrar's website. Some will allow you to order transcripts online.



**Note: Many colleges and universities charge a small fee for official transcripts. Be sure to enclose your fee with your transcript request to avoid a delay in processing.**

- 3 It can often take several days for a transcript request to be processed. When your transcripts are received, the Graduate Information Office will contact you, but if you have not received confirmation within 14 days, please contact us at **(412) 887-1477**.

**Please have all official transcripts sent electronically to:**

**[gradadmission@pointpark.edu](mailto:gradadmission@pointpark.edu)**

**Or by mail to:**

**POINT PARK UNIVERSITY  
Graduate and Online Admission Office**

Attn: Lynn Ribar  
201 Wood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**REMEMBER: An admission decision cannot be made until all transcripts are received.**

### For:

Professional educators with at least three years of relevant professional experience in an educational setting related to the instructional process who wish to enter into a leadership position as a principal in a K-12 school.

### What you learn:

The mission of Point Park University's Master of Education in School Leadership program is to prepare professional educators for leadership positions as school administrators or principals. We will achieve this by advancing professional knowledge that supports the intellectual, social, and personal development of learners; integrating leadership and supervisory theories and skills with problem solving and decision making models; encouraging collaboration, communication, professional development, and responsible management of educational programs and resources; and conducting educational research that enhances organizational effectiveness.

### How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online courseroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 2 years.

### Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned an M.Ed. in School Leadership and be eligible for certification as a K-12 School Principal in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                               | Hours |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 542    | Issues in Law and Education                                               | 3     |
| EDUC 547    | Actionable Leadership                                                     | 3     |
| EDUC        | Elective                                                                  | 3     |
| EDUC        | Elective                                                                  | 3     |
| EDUC 538    | Educational Administration                                                | 3     |
| EDUC 545    | The Principalship                                                         | 3     |
| EDUC 546    | Clinical Supervision and Leadership                                       | 3     |
| EDUC 549    | Applied Research Practicum I: School Administrator-School Principal K-12  | 3     |
| EDUC 550    | Applied Research Practicum II: School Administrator-School Principal K-12 | 3     |
| SPED 634    | Leadership for Differentiated Instructional Practices                     | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                           | 30    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires candidates to apply for certification on the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) to:

- Provide a chief school administrator's verification of the completion of a minimum of three years of public school professional experience in an instructional area
- TESTS FOR CERTIFICATION: Check PDE Test Requirements: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/certification-testing>
- Be recommended for certification by the authorized certification officer or person who holds a comparable certificate from another state.

### For:

Professional educators with at least three years of relevant professional experience in an educational setting related to the instructional process **who already hold a Master's degree in Education** and who wish to enter into a leadership position as a principal in a K-12 school.

### What you learn:

The mission of Point Park University's School Principal Certification program is to prepare professional educators for leadership positions as school administrators or principals. We will achieve this by advancing professional knowledge that supports the intellectual, social, and personal development of learners; integrating leadership and supervisory theories and skills with problem solving and decision making models; encouraging collaboration, communication, professional development, and responsible management of educational programs and resources; and conducting educational research that enhances organizational effectiveness.

### How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online courseroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 1 year.

### Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned a graduate-level certificate and will be eligible for certification as a K-12 School Principal in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### Certification Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                                 | Hours |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 545    | The Principalship                                                           | 3     |
| EDUC 538    | Educational Administration                                                  | 3     |
| EDUC 549    | Applied Research Practicum I: School Administrator - School Principal K-12  | 3     |
| EDUC 546    | Clinical Supervision and Leadership                                         | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated Instructional Practices                                      | 3     |
| EDUC 550    | Applied Research Practicum II: School Administrator - School Principal K-12 | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                             | 18    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the assigned Praxis exam is required for certification. Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

In order to receive certification at the end of the program, candidates must provide a chief school administrator's verification of the completion of a minimum of three years of professional experience in an instructional area and must be recommended for certification by the Point Park University authorized certification officer.

## For:

Professional educators seeking a Master's in Education in Learning, Design, and Technology along with an Instructional Technology Specialist Certificate, Online Instruction Endorsement, and AI Endorsement.

## What you learn:

The program prepares students to design, facilitate, manage, and evaluate digital instruction in online, hybrid, and remote settings – the fastest growing segments of education and training in the 21st century. Course work equips students to effectively use hardware/software, integrate technology into lessons, facilitate learner-centered activities, and develop interactive professional development programs in a wide range of learning organizations.

Scholarly research, interactive learning, and inclusive participation are required of all students.

This program has course embedded to earn an Instructional Technology Specialist Certification, AI Endorsement and an Online Instruction Endorsement for Pennsylvania certified K-12 teachers or credentialed teachers in states that have reciprocity with Pennsylvania may earn an along with Masters in Education.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. The program is comprised of 36 credit hours, including a Practicum course in which students work with certified Instructional Technologists in schools, districts, or intermediate units. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout the course of study to be able to continue in the program. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in a little over 2 years.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize learning theory, design methods, and technology resources to address the learning needs of diverse populations in a variety of educational and training settings
2. Develop and implement effective instructional and learning strategies that incorporate multimedia principles, copyright compliance, and digital accessibility for use in online and remote instruction environments
3. Integrate instructional design and technology into curricular planning and direct instruction for multiple settings
4. Design and execute plans for conducting administrative activities related to online learning initiatives including needs analysis, strategic planning, and program evaluation
5. Apply management and leadership skills from current research to a variety of online educational settings
6. Apply qualitative and quantitative research methods as evidence-based practice to solve problems in online education settings
7. Assess teaching and technology resources for educational and training settings
8. Apply nationally recognized, established research-based standards for quality teaching, design and learning

## Degree Requirements:

| Course             | Course Name                                               | Hours     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| EDUC 504           | Instructional Methods for Digital Teaching and Learning   | 3         |
| EDUC 528           | Assessment and Evaluation of Online Teaching and Learning | 3         |
| EDUC 534           | Online Teaching: Design and Delivery                      | 3         |
| EDUC 590           | AI Foundations and Applications                           | 3         |
| EDUC 543           | Learning Technologies for Educators                       | 3         |
| EDUC 591           | AI Literacy, Teaching and Assessment                      | 3         |
| EDUC 580           | Instructional Technology Administration and Management    | 3         |
| EDUC 592           | AI Leadership and Innovation                              | 3         |
| EDUC 581           | Innovative Instruction and Leadership                     | 3         |
| EDUC 593           | AI Ethics, Human and Social Issues Capstone               | 3         |
| EDUC 603           | MEd -Field Work                                           | 3         |
| EDUC 604           | MEd -Practicum                                            | 3         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> |                                                           | <b>36</b> |

**Note:** Students who enroll in the M.Ed. program may, at the discretion of the School of Education, transfer up to 6 graduate credits from other institutions provided those credits carry a grade of B or above. Courses with grades of B- or below will not be accepted. Only graduate credits from courses relevant to the Learning, Design, and Technology program will be accepted, as determined by the Director of the Graduate Studies in the School of Education. Students who enroll in the Instructional Technology Specialist program may transfer up to 3 credits. There are no transfer credits permitted for the for Online Instruction Endorsement.

Graduation requirements for the M.Ed. program include: Successfully completing 10 required courses in the program with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, and no grade in any course lower than a C. Completing a capstone practicum experience.

## For:

Candidates with an undergraduate degree seeking certification as an Instructional Technology Specialist

## What you learn:

The Instructional Technology Specialist certificate area includes the science involved in the application of knowledge and competency required for the use of instructional technology as it pertains to aiding staff/administration in educational school settings.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. The program is comprised of 15 credit hours, including a Practicum course in which students work with certified Instructional Technologists in schools, districts, or intermediate units. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout the course of study to be able to continue in the program. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in 10 months.

## Career Outcomes:

A person holding a valid PA certificate for Instructional Technology Specialist is qualified to provide technology information to district staff and administrators at grades PK-12.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                   | Hours |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 543    | Learning Technologies for Educators                           | 3     |
| EDUC 504    | Instructional Methods for Digital Teaching and Learning       | 3     |
| EDUC 534    | Online Teaching: Design and Delivery                          | 3     |
| EDUC 580    | Instructional Technology Administration and Management        | 3     |
| EDUC 604    | Practicum in K-12 Schools in Learning, Design, and Technology | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                               | 15    |

**Note:** Graduation requirements for the Instructional Technology Specialist Certification program include: 1) Successfully completing 5 required courses in the program with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, and no grade in any course lower than a C. 2) Completing a capstone practicum experience.

### **For:**

Professional educators seeking an Online Instruction Endorsement.

### **What you learn:**

Courses are designed to address the specific set of issues, knowledge and competencies that are relevant to teaching and learning in an online environment.

### **How you learn:**

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. The program is comprised of 12 credit hours. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout the course of study to be able to continue in the program. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in 8 months.

### **Career Outcomes:**

Candidates will be able to successfully implement online instruction and become familiar, or strengthen their familiarity, with instructional technology tools to accomplish the curricular goals in online courses.

### **Degree Requirements:**

| Course      | Course Name                                                    | Hours |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 543    | Learning Technologies for Educators                            | 3     |
| EDUC 504    | Instructional Methods for Digital Teaching and Learning        | 3     |
| EDUC 534    | Online Teaching: Design and Delivery                           | 3     |
| EDUC 603    | Field work in K-12 Schools in Learning, Design, and Technology | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                | 12    |

**Note:** Graduation requirements for the Online Instruction Endorsement program include: 1) Successfully completing 5 required courses in the program with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, and no grade in any course lower than a C. 2) Completing a capstone field experience course that appropriately synthesizes and applies program instruction in a real world context. Candidates will work with program advisors to secure a K-12 school partner for this experience. The experience can be tailored and differentiated to match the candidates' professional goals related to their desired role(s) within a K-12 system. The field experience will contain adequate rigor that both demonstrates practical application of coursework as well as provide new opportunities for professional growth.

## For:

Pennsylvania certified teachers seeking certification in Grades PreK-12 Special Education and a M.A. in Special Education.

## What you learn:

The Master of Arts in Special Education leading to Pennsylvania Grades PreK-12 Special Education certification program is designed for certified teachers with an undergraduate degree who want to increase their marketability and prepare more fully to meet the challenges of today's inclusive schools.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required on-campus, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online courseroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 1 1/2 years.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program and the passing of the assigned PECT Exam, students will have earned a M.A. in Special Education and be eligible to teach Special Education in a PreK-12 grade setting in the state of Pennsylvania.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                              | Hours |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| SPED 535    | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports           | 3     |
| SPED 520    | Instructional/Assistive Technology and Universal Design  | 3     |
| SPED 536    | High Incidence Disabilities                              | 3     |
| SPED 537    | Low Incidence Disabilities                               | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated Instructional Practices                   | 3     |
| SPED 540    | Autism Spectrum Disorders                                | 3     |
| SPED 542    | Intensive Reading, Writing and Mathematics Interventions | 3     |
| SPED 538    | Secondary Transition Processes and Procedures            | 3     |
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools, Teachers and Classrooms   | 3     |
| SPED 550    | Student Practicum Experience                             | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                          | 30    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the PECT test from Pearson for Special Education by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is required for certification.

To earn PreK-12 Special Education certification, candidates must hold a valid PA teaching certificate at the elementary, PreK-4, 4-8, Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, or Secondary Education. All candidates must be recommended for certification by Point Park University's authorized certification officer.

## For:

Non-certified teachers seeking initial certification in Grades PreK-12 Special Education and a M.Ed. in Special Education.

## What you learn:

The Master of Education in Special Education leading to Pennsylvania Grades PreK-12 Special Education certification program is designed for non-certified teachers with an undergraduate degree who wish to earn their initial teaching certification in Grades PreK-12 Special Education.

## How you learn:

Point Park's online programs are offered in a cohort format with courses being 8 weeks long in a predetermined course sequence and are asynchronous for your convenience. Observation and field experience requirements are built into many of the courses, so students should expect to spend time in classrooms for this initial certification.

Online students have access to the same great benefits as those on campus, including Point Park faculty with real-world experience, small online class sizes for individualized attention, a full spectrum of University resources, and a student success advisor offering support from application to graduation, who will guide you to successfully complete your degree.

**Every student teacher will satisfy the PDE requirement of a student teaching experience, including at least 30 instructional days in a PA school, during the final term of the program (15-week full time school hours).**

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program and the passing of the assigned PECT Exam, students will have earned a M.Ed. in Special Education and be eligible to teach Special Education in a PreK-12 grade setting in the state of Pennsylvania.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                        | Hours |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| SPED 533    | Special Education and Inclusive Practices                          | 3     |
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools, Teachers, and Classrooms            | 3     |
| SPED 535    | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports                     | 3     |
| SPED 520    | Instructional/Assistive Technology and Universal Design            | 3     |
| SPED 536    | High Incidence Disabilities                                        | 3     |
| SPED 537    | Low Incidence Disabilities                                         | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated Instruction Practices                               | 3     |
| SPED 540    | Autism Spectrum Disorders                                          | 3     |
| EDUC 567    | Methods of Teaching English Language Learners in the Content Areas | 3     |
| SPED 542    | Intensive Reading, Writing and Mathematics Interventions           | 3     |
| SPED 538    | Secondary Transition Processes and Procedures                      | 3     |
| EDUC 624    | Student Teaching Seminar                                           | 3     |
| EDUC 625    | Student Teaching Practicum                                         | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                    | 42    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the PECT test from Pearson for Special Education by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is required for certification

All candidates must be recommended for certification by Point Park University's authorized certification officer.

**For:**

Professional educators who are seeking certification as a PA K-12 Reading Specialist.

**What you learn:**

You will learn enhanced reading skills that will enable you to work one-to-one or in small groups with students that are experiencing difficulty reading at grade level. You will obtain the necessary skills to assess students' reading abilities, identifying deficiencies and creating intervention plans for grade-level students who have been identified in need of additional reading help. The courses will strengthen your ability to teach reading and enable you to work school wide or district wide coaching other teachers in effective reading practices. In addition to assessment and intervention of students with reading deficiencies, you will learn about teaching Reading in the Content Areas, the Reading and Writing Connection, and the skills needed to coach other teachers in the classroom.

Receiving your Reading Specialist Certification will also enhance your capacity in the job market by opening other educational avenues. Obtaining the credits for Reading Specialist can also be applied toward gaining permanent certification.

**How you learn:**

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 16 months.

**Career Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this program, students will be eligible for certification as a K-12 Reading Specialist from the state of Pennsylvania by passing the assigned Praxis exam through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Certification Requirements:**

| Course      | Course Name                       | Hours |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 515    | Foundations of Literacy           | 3     |
| EDUC 516    | Reading and Writing Content       | 3     |
| EDUC 517    | Literature and Literacy           | 3     |
| EDUC 518    | Literacy Assessment               | 3     |
| EDUC 519    | Roles of Reading Specialist       | 3     |
| EDUC 524    | Content Area Design & Instruction | 3     |
| EDUC 536    | Research Methods                  | 3     |
| EDUC 569    | Reading Specialist Practicum      | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                   | 24    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

## For:

Professional educators who wish to earn a Master's in Reading and Literacy and those seeking certification as a Reading Specialist through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

## What you learn:

The objectives of Point Park University's M.Ed. in Reading and Literacy program are to provide professional educators with a thorough understanding of educational theories while emphasizing collaborative, hands-on, learning using appropriate technologies; to prepare professional educators to develop curricula for content areas that incorporate diverse learner populations and settings across the lifespan; to prepare professional educators to develop appropriate and effective instructional methods which address the needs of diverse student populations across content areas and in a variety of classroom settings; and to prepare professional educators to successfully address contemporary educational issues such as: effective classroom and behavior management, diversity issues, learning styles and differentiated instruction, and integration of technology across the curriculum.

You will learn enhanced reading skills that will enable you to work one-to-one or in small groups with students that are experiencing difficulty reading at grade level. You will obtain the necessary skills to assess students' reading abilities, identifying deficiencies and creating intervention plans for grade-level students who have been identified in need of additional reading help. The courses will strengthen your ability to teach reading and enable you to work school wide or district wide coaching other teachers in effective reading practices. In addition to assessment and intervention of students with reading deficiencies, you will learn about teaching Reading in the Content Areas, the Reading and Writing Connection, and the skills needed to coach other teachers in the classroom. Receiving your Reading Specialist Certification will also enhance your capacity in the job market by opening other educational avenues. Obtaining the credits for Reading Specialist can also be applied toward gaining permanent certification.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. One 3-credit practicum course is included in your course schedule, where you will be responsible for completing the mandated number of observation hours required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education prior to certification. These hours will need to be completed in a reading clinic with a practicing reading specialist. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 1.5 years.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned an M.Ed. in Reading and Literacy and be eligible for certification as a K-12 Reading Specialist from the state of Pennsylvania by passing the assigned Praxis exam through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

## Certification Requirements:

| Course             | Course Name                                      | Hours     |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| EDUC 515           | Foundations of Literacy                          | 3         |
| EDUC 516           | Reading/Writing in the Content Areas             | 3         |
| EDUC 517           | Literature and Literacy                          | 3         |
| EDUC 518           | Literary Assessment                              | 3         |
| EDUC 519           | Role of the Reading Specialist                   | 3         |
| EDUC 524           | Content Area Design & Instruction                | 3         |
| EDUC 536           | Research Methods                                 | 3         |
| EDUC 569           | Reading Specialist Practicum                     | 3         |
| EDUC 535           | Technological Applications Across the Curriculum | 3         |
| EDUC 541           | Culturally Responsive Schools                    | 3         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> |                                                  | <b>30</b> |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

Students will need to complete a 3 credit practicum course in a reading clinic with a practicing reading specialist to satisfy Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements pertaining to field experience and observation hours prior to certification.

### For:

Professional educators who wish to earn a Master's degree and those seeking leadership roles in the 21st century school.

### What you learn:

As current educational research strongly emphasizes the critical role of teacher leadership in the success of today's schools, this program is designed to assist teachers to enhance their instructional skills, while playing the critical role of change agents within the teaching profession. This program will provide the knowledge base and experiences to enable our graduate students to meet these challenges.

Students will complete six core courses and then have the opportunity to choose 4 elective courses in their chosen content area (EDUC/SPED) that can be applied to a future certification program

### How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online courseroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 1.5 years.

### Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned an M.Ed. in Teaching and Leadership.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                           | Hours |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 524    | Content Area Design and Instruction   | 3     |
| EDUC 525    | Human Behavior & Classroom Management | 3     |
| EDUC 531    | Emerging Teacher Leadership           | 3     |
| EDUC 533    | Evolving School Landscapes            | 3     |
| EDUC 535    | Technological Applications            | 3     |
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools         | 3     |
| EDUC/SPED   | Elective - Student's Choice           | 3     |
| EDUC/SPED   | Elective - Student's Choice           | 3     |
| EDUC/SPED   | Elective - Student's Choice           | 3     |
| EDUC/SPED   | Elective - Student's Choice           | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                       | 30    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

## For:

Present coaches or individuals with athletic experience looking to assume responsibilities in their future or present employment as coaching assistants, coaches, or working with athletes of any age.

## What you learn:

This program will provide significant influence in a field that requires coaches to be able to administer, teach, support, and create programs for athletes that adhere to the National Standards for Sport Coaches, established and published by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. The M.Ed. in Athletic Coaching will be framed by these standards, which encompass domains that include both scientific and practical components expected by administrators, athletes, and the public.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. No face-to-face class meetings are required, but students will be engaged in an active and engaging online classroom environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in approximately 1 1/2 years. Courses are taught by faculty who have years of real-world experience in coaching, teaching, physical education, sports psychology and educational administration.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of the program, students will earn an M.Ed. in Athletic Coaching and be able to apply what they've learned to present or future coaching positions in school districts or at institutions of higher learning.

According to the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, athletic coaching is a field growing nationally, as well as locally, with recent surveys indicating that approximately 10,000 coaches and scouts are employed in western Pennsylvania.

Graduates with a M.Ed. in Athletic Coaching will be prepared for coaching opportunities in various settings including:

- K-12 public or private schools
- Colleges and universities
- Club and travel sports programs
- Professional sports teams

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                | Hours |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 505    | The Art and Science of Athletic Coaching                   | 3     |
| EDUC 507    | Safety and Physical Conditioning of Athletes               | 3     |
| EDUC 509    | Diversity and Ethical Responsibility in Athletics          | 3     |
| EDUC 513    | Supervision and Evaluation of Athletes                     | 3     |
| EDUC 510    | Administration and Financial Responsibilities of Athletics | 3     |
| EDUC 511    | Communication Skills for Athletics                         | 3     |
| EDUC 508    | Sports Psychology                                          | 3     |
| EDUC 504    | Marketing and Branding in Athletics                        | 3     |
| EDUC 512    | Research: Contemporary Theory to Current Practice          | 3     |
| EDUC 514    | Practicum                                                  | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                            | 30    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

## For:

Professional educators with at least six years of relevant professional experience in an educational setting related to the instructional process and who wish to enter into a leadership position as a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent in a K-12 district. In order to receive certification at the end of the program, candidates must provide verification of the completion of a minimum of six years of professional experience in an instructional area (at least three of the six years should be at the administrative level). The candidate also must be recommended for certification by the Point Park University authorized certification officer.

## What you learn:

The mission of Point Park University's Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Letter of Eligibility Certification program is to prepare professional educators for leadership positions on a district level as Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent. We will achieve this by advancing professional knowledge that supports the intellectual, social, and personal development of learners; integrating leadership and supervisory theories and skills with problem solving and decision-making models; encouraging collaboration, communication, professional development, and responsible management of educational programs and resources; and conducting educational research that enhances organizational effectiveness. This program will expand upon the Total Leader 2.0 Leadership Model as developed by Charles Schwan and William Spady.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. Students will be engaged in an active and engaging interactive online environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in one year. Embedded in each course will be a number of required field experiences that are required by PDE for certification.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will be eligible for certification as an Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent in the state of Pennsylvania. Administrators are eligible to receive Act 45 credit by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Superintendent Letter of Eligibility also allows recipients to hold positions outside of the superintendent/assistant superintendent position, such as curriculum coordinator, department supervisor, intermediate unit director, or pupil services director.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                       | Hours |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 570    | Art and Science of Authenticity                   | 3     |
| EDUC 571    | Art and Science of Visionary Leadership           | 3     |
| EDUC 572    | Art and Science of Cultural/Relational Leadership | 3     |
| EDUC 573    | Art and Science of Quality/Capacity Leadership    | 3     |
| EDUC 574    | Art and Science of Systems and Service Leadership | 3     |
| EDUC 575    | Art and Science of Communication in Leadership    | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                   | 18    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the assigned Praxis exam is required for certification. Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

### For:

Aspiring educators seeking a Master's degree in Education and teaching certification in grades PreK-4.

### What you learn:

- 1) Utilize a variety of instructional strategies.
- 2) Develop instructional plans and set goals based on the content to be taught /learned, knowledge of assigned students, and the instructional process.
- 3) Establish and maintain purposeful and equitable classroom environments
- 4) Demonstrate integrity, ethical behavior and professional conduct as stated in the Pennsylvania Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators.

### How you learn:

Point Park's online programs are offered in a cohort format with courses being 8 weeks long in a predetermined course sequence and are asynchronous for your convenience. Observation and field experience requirements are built into many of the courses, so students should expect to spend time in classrooms for this initial certification.

Online students have access to the same great benefits as those on campus, including Point Park faculty with real-world experience, small online class sizes for individualized attention, a full spectrum of University resources, and a student success advisor offering support from application to graduation, who will guide you to successfully complete your degree.

**Every student teacher will satisfy the PDE requirement of a student teaching experience, including at least 30 instructional days in a PA school, during the final term of the program (15-week full time school hours).**

### Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned a Master's in Education and will be eligible for certification as a PreK-4 grade level educator in the state of Pennsylvania.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course             | Course Name                                                                     | Hours     |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| SPED 533           | Special Education and Inclusive Practices                                       | 3         |
| EDUC 541           | Culturally Responsive Schools, Teachers, and Classrooms                         | 3         |
| SPED 535           | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports                                  | 3         |
| EDUC 567           | Methods of Teaching English Language Learners in the Content Areas              | 3         |
| EDUC 515           | Foundations of Literacy and Writing from Theory to Practice: Models of Literacy | 3         |
| EDUC 564           | Methods of Teaching Social Studies PreK-4                                       | 3         |
| EDUC 503           | Assessment for Differentiated Reading Instruction                               | 3         |
| SPED 534           | Differentiated Instructional Practices in the Inclusive Classroom               | 3         |
| EDUC 529           | Assessment Strategies and Data Driven Instruction                               | 3         |
| EDUC 562           | Methods of Teaching Mathematics PreK-4                                          | 3         |
| EDUC 563           | Methods of Teaching Science and Health PreK-4                                   | 3         |
| EDUC 624           | Student Teaching Seminar                                                        | 3         |
| EDUC 625           | Student Teaching Practicum                                                      | 6         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> |                                                                                 | <b>42</b> |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the assigned Praxis exam is required for certification. Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

## For:

Aspiring educators seeking a Master's degree in Secondary Education and certification in grades 7-12.

## What you learn:

- 1) Integrate academic content courses in your chosen subject area (biological sciences, citizenship, English, mathematics or social studies) with courses in education.
- 2) Explore subjects like assessment and adaptations, technological literacy for teaching, literacy and learning in secondary school, in-depth content area exploration and have a student teaching practicum.
- 3) Benefit from state-of-the-art resources and a variety of choices for student teaching placements, which will prepare you to teach most anywhere.

## How you learn:

Point Park's online programs are offered in a cohort format with courses being 8 weeks long in a predetermined course sequence and are asynchronous for your convenience. Observation and field experience requirements are built into many of the courses, so students should expect to spend time in classrooms for this initial certification.

Online students have access to the same great benefits as those on campus, including Point Park faculty with real-world experience, small online class sizes for individualized attention, a full spectrum of University resources, and a student success advisor offering support from application to graduation, who will guide you to successfully complete your degree.

**Every student teacher will satisfy the PDE requirement of a student teaching experience, including at least 30 instructional days in a PA school, during the final term of the program (15-week full time school hours).**

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will have earned a Master's in Secondary Education and will be eligible for certification as a 7-12 grade level educator in the state of Pennsylvania.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                        | Hours |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools, Teachers, and Classrooms            | 3     |
| SPED 533    | Special Education Inclusive Practices                              | 3     |
| EDUC 567    | Methods of Teaching English Language Learners in the Content Areas | 3     |
| SPED 535    | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports                     | 3     |
| EDUC 501    | Instructional Methods for Secondary Teachers                       | 3     |
| EDUC 516    | Reading and Writing in the Content Areas                           | 3     |
| EDUC 529    | Assessment Strategies & Data Driven Instruction                    | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated instructional Practices                             | 3     |
| EDUC 535    | Technological Applications                                         | 3     |
| EDUC 525    | Human Behavior and Classroom Management                            | 3     |
| EDUC 533    | Evolving School Landscapes: Challenges and Reforms                 | 3     |
| EDUC 624    | Student Teaching Seminar                                           | 3     |
| EDUC 625    | Student Teaching Practicum                                         | 6     |
| Total Hours |                                                                    | 42    |

**Flexible, online format. 42 credit hours. 2 year completion time.**

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Successful completion of the secondary certification assessment provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education is required for certification. Please be aware that it is the student's responsibility to regularly review the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) website for the most up-to-date testing requirements specific to your certification area, as PDE does make periodic changes to the requirements. For detailed information, please refer to the PDE Testing Requirement Link: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/educators/certification/help/quick-reference-for-applicants.html>

### For:

Students eligible for the M.Ed. in PreK-12 Dance Education Certification include Point Park dance alumni and any student who has earned a B.F.A. or B.A. in dance from other institutions.

A baccalaureate degree in dance is strongly preferred. However, applicants with a baccalaureate degree in another discipline may be considered for admission if they can demonstrate extensive professional investment in the field, such as professional performance or dance pedagogy experience.

### What you learn:

Point Park University's innovative School of Education and world-renowned Conservatory of Performing Arts are proud to be the first in Pennsylvania to offer a Master of Education in PreK-12 Dance Education Certification program, an opportunity for dance professionals to broaden their skillset in teaching the art of dance. With this in-depth, relevant and content-specific certification, dancers who envision a career outside of performance will be well-prepared and competitive in the workforce.

This program offers a distinctive blend of dance pedagogy and educator core competencies, taught by experienced professors who are skilled at supporting students' needs, career-readiness and quest for artistic excellence. Students will strengthen their understanding of child development, diverse learning styles, assessment, communication and differentiated learning practices

### How you learn:

Point Park's online programs are offered in a cohort format with courses being 8 weeks long in a predetermined course sequence and are asynchronous for your convenience. Observation and field experience requirements are built into many of the courses, so students should expect to spend time in classrooms for this initial certification

Online students have access to the same great benefits as those on campus, including Point Park faculty with real-world experience, small online class sizes for individualized attention, a full spectrum of University resources, and a student success advisor offering support from application to graduation, who will guide you to successfully complete your degree.

**Every student teacher will satisfy the PDE requirement of a student teaching experience, including at least 30 instructional days in a PA school, during the final term of the program (15-week full time school hours).**

### Career Outcomes:

Graduates of this program will be certified to teach dance in public and private schools in Pennsylvania. PA teaching certification carries reciprocity with 45 states through the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. Students may also find employment in any dance organization that requires working with and teaching students.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                   | Hours |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 582    | Dance Pedagogy                                | 3     |
| EDUC 583    | Dance Aesthetics & Criticism                  | 3     |
| EDUC 584    | Dance History                                 | 3     |
| EDUC 585    | Production and Technology                     | 3     |
| EDUC 586    | Choreography and Composition                  | 3     |
| EDUC 587    | Teaching Dance Methods PK-12                  | 3     |
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools                 | 3     |
| SPED 533    | Special Education & Inclusive Practices       | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated Instructional Practices        | 3     |
| SPED 535    | Positive Behavioral Interventions             | 3     |
| EDUC 567    | Methods of Teaching English Language Learners | 3     |
| EDUC 588    | Student Teaching Seminar – Dance Education    | 3     |
| EDUC 625    | Student Teaching Practicum                    | 6     |
| Total Hours |                                               | 42    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university and PDE policies.

### For:

Students eligible for the M.A. in Dance Education include Point Park dance alumni and any student who has earned a B.F.A. or B.A. in dance from other institutions.

A baccalaureate degree in dance is strongly preferred. However, applicants with a baccalaureate degree in another discipline may be considered for admission if they can demonstrate extensive professional investment in the field, such as professional performance or dance pedagogy experience.

### What you learn:

This program offers a unique blend of dance pedagogy and theoretical knowledge to provide dance education of the highest quality. Upon completion of this program, graduate students will be trained to support students' social-emotional needs, college and career readiness, and quest for artistic excellence.

### Program Objectives:

Identify contemporary pedagogical and theoretical approaches to teaching dance. Illustrate the vital role that dance plays in the social and emotional development of children. Assess strategies for cultivating teamwork, cooperation, time management, and work habits in dance. Create dance lesson plans that include learning objectives, procedures, differentiation, assessment, and closure.

### How you learn:

Point Park's online programs are offered in a flexible format at an affordable cost. Online courses are 8 weeks long and are always offered asynchronously for your convenience. Online students have access to the same great benefits as those on campus, including Point Park faculty with real-world experience, small online class sizes for individualized attention, a full spectrum of University resources, and a student success advisor offering support from application to graduation, who will guide you to successfully complete your degree.

### Career Outcomes:

Graduates of this program will be equipped to provide their students with a 21st century dance education that prepares them for college and a career in dance or otherwise. Coursework will address the vital role that dance plays in the social and emotional development of children. The program focuses on training students on the dynamics of teamwork, cooperation, time management, and work habits in dance. Dance educators will have the tools to help their students become more productive, and socially and self-aware individuals in and outside of the classroom, for years to come.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                        | Hours |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| EDUC 541    | Culturally Responsive Schools, Teachers & Classrooms               | 3     |
| SPED 533    | Special Education & Inclusive Practices                            | 3     |
| EDUC 584    | Dance History                                                      | 3     |
| SPED 534    | Differentiated Instructional Practices                             | 3     |
| EDUC 567    | Methods of Teaching English Language Learners in the Content Areas | 3     |
| EDUC 583    | Dance Aesthetics & Criticism                                       | 3     |
| EDUC 586    | Choreography and Composition                                       | 3     |
| EDUC 585    | Production and Technology                                          | 3     |
| EDUC 587    | Teaching Dance Methods PK –12                                      | 3     |
| EDUC 582    | Dance Pedagogy                                                     | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                    | 30    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university and PDE policies.

## For:

Candidates for the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness Endorsement of Students PK-12 must have earned a Level I or Level II instructional, supervisory, educational specialist, or an administrative certificate. This endorsement program is intended for teachers, school administrators, counselors, and other school personnel who recognize the importance of supporting students who have experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or trauma.

## What you learn:

The Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness Endorsement of Students PK-12 program prepares professional educators who are compassionate and competent to build resiliency in students by facilitating social, emotional, and behavioral wellness in order to address non-academic barriers to learning. The four required courses, which include field experiences, describe the professional knowledge, skills, and competencies that students will master in the program and are grounded in theories of cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral development and demonstrated research-based practices. Field experiences will provide students with a variety of practical experiences related to teaching and learning within diverse school settings with school mentors and school personnel (principals, deans of students, school psychologists, social workers, school counselor). This program prepares candidates to demonstrate competency in the five following domains:

- Social Emotional Wellness Learning and Youth Development
- Characteristics and Impact of Adverse Childhood Experience, Trauma, and Mental Illness on PK-12 Students
- Behavioral and Mental Health Literacy
- Prevention and Intervention to Support Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness across PK-12 Educational Environments
- Collaboration with Families, Agencies, and the Community

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. Students will be engaged in an active and engaging interactive online environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in one year. Embedded in each course will be a number of required field experiences that are required by PDE for certification.

## Career Outcomes:

Upon completion of this program, students will be eligible for the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Wellness of Students PK-12 PDE Endorsement. Upon completion of this program, students will:

Describe and define what social emotional learning is and how it relates to resiliency, including the research linking SEL to positive and negative developmental outcomes. Discuss how a multi-tiered system/Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) approach is used to guide the selection and implementation of evidence based SEL programs and practices. Demonstrate an understanding of typical child, adolescent, and young adult development and the most common types of mental illness that PK-12 students may experience and the impact of ACEs and trauma. Identify and describe the roles of other relevant child-serving systems within communities that can be supportive to addressing matters associated with social, emotional, and behavioral wellness of PK-12 students. Plan and implement (when necessary) approaches to de-escalate non-crisis and crisis situations in the instance when the safety of students or others may be in jeopardy that reflect trauma-informed principles. Demonstrate an understanding of how to use academic and behavioral progress monitoring data (e.g., individual, classroom, school-wide) to support educational practice. Demonstrate authentic collaboration and culturally responsive approaches when communicating with family, school, and community partners regarding student social, emotional, or behavioral needs in simulated or actual contexts.

## Degree Requirements:

| Course      | Course Name                                                             | Hours |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| SPED 535    | Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports                          | 3     |
| EDUC 578    | Social, Emotional Learning and Collaborative School Based Relationships | 3     |
| EDUC 577    | Trauma Informed Practices                                               | 3     |
| EDUC 589    | Student Practicum Experience in Social Emotional Learning               | 3     |
| Total Hours |                                                                         | 12    |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy. Students can apply for the endorsement after completing the course work. The application is submitted in the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) that can be found on the PDE website like other certificate application.

### For:

Candidates for the STEM Endorsement PK-12 Program must have earned a Level I or Level II instructional, supervisory, educational specialist, or an administrative certificate. This endorsement program is intended for teachers, school administrators, counselors, and other school personnel who recognize the importance of preparing students to thrive in an increasingly technological world.

### What you learn:

Through our work on our National Science Foundation Grant Project, Transforming Integrative Makerspace Education (T.I.M.E.) for STEM, we have developed four graduate education courses to integrate maker education concepts and meet Pennsylvania STEM education competencies.

The STEM endorsement program at Point Park University prepares teachers who will be able to help students master academic standards and STEM skills. The program includes required PA STEM competencies and field experience/job-embedded activities. The courses within the STEM endorsement program include activities and experiences that assess whether candidates have acquired the required knowledge, skills, and competencies in inquiry-based learning environments in ways that assure validity and reliability. The courses are grounded in theories of cognitive, emotional and social development, research, and best practices in STEM education, and enable candidates to gain the knowledge and experience to work successfully with all students. All faculty that teaches within the STEM endorsement program demonstrate knowledge of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics academic disciplines.

### How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. Students will be engaged in an active and engaging interactive online environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Following this schedule, you will complete the program in one year. Embedded in each course will be a number of required field experiences that are required by PDE for certification.

### Career Outcomes:

This program is designed to assist teachers to enhance their instructional skills, while playing the critical role of change agents within the teaching profession. This STEM Endorsement option will provide the knowledge base and experiences to enable our graduate students to meet these challenges.

These four courses will be also offered as a Concentration option for our 30-credit, fully online Master of Education in Teaching and Leadership cohort program which is designed to accommodate professional educators who wish to earn a master's degree and those seeking leadership roles in the 21st century school.

### Degree Requirements:

| Course             | Course Name                                                    | Hours     |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| DUC 551            | Foundations of STEM Education and Integrated Curriculum Design | 3         |
| EDUC 552           | Inquiry-Based STEM Pedagogy and Makerspace Education           | 3         |
| EDUC 553           | Teaching STEM in Elementary and Makerspace Environments        | 3         |
| EDUC 554           | Assessment and Technology Integration in STEM Education        | 3         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> |                                                                | <b>12</b> |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy. Students can apply for the endorsement after completing the course work. The application is submitted in the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) that can be found on the PDE website.

## For:

To meet the growing need for AI literacy in schools, there is an increasing demand for educators who are not only familiar with AI technologies but also capable of applying them to enhance teaching and learning. This new Endorsement aims to equip educators and students with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate and contribute to an AI-driven world. This Endorsement program is designed to bolster educator competencies in integrating AI ethically, educationally, and innovatively across PK–12 settings. **Candidates must have earned a Level I or Level II instructional, supervisory, educational specialist, or an administrative certificate.**

## What you learn:

The AI Endorsement is designed to ensure that educators are well-prepared to integrate AI meaningfully into their teaching, equipping students to navigate both the opportunities and challenges of an AI-driven world. The Point Park Endorsement aligns with Pennsylvania's "Artificial Intelligence Program Endorsement Competencies," emphasizing the integration of AI into education. Additionally, it supports national efforts to promote AI literacy and workforce readiness, as outlined in recent federal AI action plans.

This AI Endorsement is a non-instructional certification addition to existing teacher certifications (Level I or II) and designed to elevate educator capacity in integrating AI responsibly and effectively across K-12 settings. The Endorsement equips educators and students to navigate the evolving landscape of AI in education.

## How you learn:

**Online Format:** This is an online cohort program. Students will be engaged in an active and engaging interactive online environment that includes assignments, materials, discussion threads, assessments and/or group activities done electronically. You will finish one 3-credit course every 8 weeks. Embedded in each course will be a number of required field experiences that are required by PDE for certification.

## Career Outcomes:

The Point Park AI Endorsement Program represents a strategic investment in the future of education and workforce development by empowering educators with the tools and knowledge to teach AI concepts as we lay the foundation for a generation of students equipped to thrive in an increasingly AI-integrated society.

The four online graduate level courses for the AI Endorsement are built on the Pennsylvania Department of Education six broad AI Program Endorsement Competencies which are:

- Foundations of AI and Its Applications
- AI's Role in Human and Social Thriving
- Ethical and Responsible AI Use
- AI for Teaching and Assessment
- AI Literacy for Students
- AI Leadership and Innovation in Schools

## Degree Requirements:

| Course             | Course Name                          | Hours     |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|                    | AI Foundations and Applications      | 3         |
|                    | AI Literacy, Teaching and Assessment | 3         |
|                    | AI Leadership and Innovation         | 3         |
|                    | AI Ethics, Human and Social Issues   | 3         |
| <b>Total Hours</b> |                                      | <b>12</b> |

**Note:** Program and course requirements are subject to change to comply with university policy.

Students can apply for the endorsement after completing the course work. The application is submitted in the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) that can be found on the PDE website like other certificate application.

### About Point Park

Point Park is a comprehensive master's-level university with a strong liberal arts tradition, and is located in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh. Students enroll in our dynamic institution to create real change in their lives and to create real change in the world around them. Since its founding in 1960, Point Park is known for providing students with an innovative, disciplined education that brings real-world experience into the classroom. Many of our faculty members are professional practitioners. Our classes are small by design, giving students more one-on-one time with professors.

### Admission Requirements

Candidates for a degree program at Point Park University must submit the following: 1) Completed Application Form; 2) Official copies of all college and university transcripts from an accredited American institution or its equivalent from a recognized institution outside the United States sent directly from the college or university to the Graduate Admission Office, 201 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; 3) A current Resume; 4) Statement of Purpose; 5) Undergraduate GPA of 2.75 due to PA Department of Education guidelines; 6) Candidates seeking certification must hold a valid PA teaching certificate at the appropriate grade level if required by the PA Department of Education.

### Transfer Credits

Students may, at the discretion of the program director, be able to transfer up to 9 graduate credits from other institutions, provided those credits carry a grade of "B" or above. Students will be required to provide documentation of course content relevant to the Point Park graduate program in which they seek to enroll. Point Park University's residency requirement is 24 credits.

### Cohort Information

These programs are dependent on a minimum of 10 and prefers to limit class sizes to an average of 15 students.

### Textbook Information

Graduate students can arrange to have textbooks shipped to them for a nominal fee. Contact the bookstore by phone at **(412) 392-3448** or go online at <http://pointpark.bncollege.com/>.

### Point Park University Tuition Guarantee

The discounted tuition rate for 2026-2027 academic year is \$648 per credit hour plus a \$40 per credit technology fee. This price includes a discount for educators and those pursuing a graduate level education degree. Point Park University reserves the right to raise tuition costs annually.

### Important Contact Information:

|                             |                   |              |                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Graduate Information Office | Caitlyn Weidinger | 412-887-1477 | <a href="mailto:cweidinger@graduateprogram.org">cweidinger@graduateprogram.org</a> |
| Admissions Office           | Lynn Ribar        | 412-392-3908 | <a href="mailto:lribar@pointpark.edu">lribar@pointpark.edu</a>                     |
| Financial Aid Office        |                   | 412-392-3930 | <a href="mailto:financialaid@pointpark.edu">financialaid@pointpark.edu</a>         |
| Student Accounts            |                   | 412-392-3424 | <a href="mailto:studentaccounts@pointpark.edu">studentaccounts@pointpark.edu</a>   |