

MASTER OF EDUCATION converse college

CO-ED GRADUATE PROGRAMS

why choose Converse?

QUALITY

A graduate degree from Converse College gives you a valuable career edge. Converse's highly regarded education program is well known throughout the Southeast and includes the only master's degree in Gifted Education and educational specialist degree in Marriage and Family Therapy in the region. As a graduate, you will join a valuable network of Converse alumni and the ranks of respected educators and administrators.

CONVENIENCE

Converse understands that graduate students often juggle family, career, and school. Day and evening courses, summer/fall/winter/spring terms, and rolling enrollment periods all help make managing life and school easier. The campus is conveniently located in a residential section of Spartanburg and is easily accessible from I-26 and I-85, and Converse also works closely with several school districts to provide a wide range of off-campus courses within the districts. In most cases, tuition for these courses is funded by the districts, and up to nine graduate hours may be used toward Converse graduate degree requirements.

PERSONAL ATTENTION

Converse offers small classes where professors know students well. Inclusive class discussions and hands-on learning experiences help ensure that students gain the greatest benefit from their education. Faculty and staff are easily accessible and happy to provide assistance and direction. The Career Services Office provides coaching for resumé writing and interview skills, posts job announcements, and hosts an on-campus Education Recruitment Day - which brings school district personnel directors to campus in search of teachers and administrators.



COVER: JANET LANDRUM, M.ED., 2002
ART TEACHER, CARLSLE-FOSTER'S GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CHESNEE, SC)

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Patricia Beason, Ed.S., 1992;
M.Ed., 1990
District Coordinator, District 1
(Spartanburg, SC)
1985 Teacher of the Year
(Spartanburg District 1)
President of the Spartanburg
County Education Association



“The leadership aspects of Converse’s program instilled within me a feeling that there was no limit to what I could do. When I graduated, I was extraordinarily prepared to do my job. I know from first hand experience that the Converse reputation is very strong because my first education employer sought me out and offered me a job just before I graduated.”

➔ M.ED. TRACKS

While each track has specified core requirements, the degree program itself offers considerable flexibility so that teachers may pursue special areas of interest. In some cases, teachers design their course of study to add an area of certification to their existing credentials. The Master of Education Degree is designed for teachers who have already completed state requirements for certification and allows such teachers to follow one of four tracks.

Experienced professors who possess a contemporary understanding of the needs and expectations placed upon teachers offer individual attention through classes that are small by design. And because the work schedule of an adult population demands flexibility, many of the courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening hours.

➔ ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

This track is designed for teachers already certified in early childhood, elementary, special education, or secondary education. Students have a great deal of flexibility in fulfilling requirements in four designated areas: 1) special education/child behavior/gifted, 2) teaching methodology, 3) foundations of education, 4) liberal arts. Students may build upon their strengths, broaden their area of expertise, and also add on certifications in early childhood or elementary education.

➔ GIFTED EDUCATION

This track allows students to pursue the only master’s degree in gifted education in South Carolina by way of a 36-hour sequence of courses emphasizing curriculum development and instructional design for gifted students, including such special populations as underachievers, minority, and the handicapped. Teachers already certified in some K-12 teaching areas can add the gifted endorsement in South Carolina while earning the M.Ed. in gifted.

➔ SECONDARY EDUCATION

Certified teachers may follow this track in any of the following secondary



"The Converse M.Ed. program provides teachers with knowledge that is essential in today's education market. The School Law course, in particular, provided me with a thorough understanding of the legal issues faced by a school administrator. I still have my class notes. The Converse professors are committed to mentoring their students. In fact, I felt that during the program I received more personal attention than I had in any other classroom setting."

Jan Scott, M.Ed., 2001

Principal of Jonesville Elementary School (Jonesville, SC)
1991 Teacher of the Year (E.P. Todd Elementary; Spartanburg, SC)

teaching subjects: English, mathematics, natural sciences, or social studies. Students complete 18-27 graduate hours in the academic subject matter with 9-18 hours in graduate professional education to complete the 36-hour degree requirement.

➤ SPECIAL EDUCATION

The 36-hour M.Ed. in Special Education will broaden the student's knowledge base in special education and psychology by way of 18-27 semester hours in such special education areas as learning disabilities, emotional disabilities, mental disabilities, and the hearing disabled with 9-18 graduate hours in appropriate psychology courses. Teachers already certified in one area of special education often use this track to add yet another special education competency.

➤ A RECORD OF SUCCESS

Success stories are the norm for graduates of the Converse M.Ed. program as the degree carries a strong reputation for excellence. Many alumni have gone on to serve as principals, coordinators, and administrators. Many have also received National Board Certification.

➤ APPLICATION PROCEDURE

For admission into the M.Ed. program, the applicant should provide the following:

1. A completed application form
2. \$35.00 non-refundable application fee
3. Two letters of recommendation (at least one from an academic source)
4. A degree from a recognized college
5. Official undergraduate transcripts
6. For full admission, an overall cumulative 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate studies (or 2.5 for consideration for provisional admission status)
7. An undergraduate major appropriate for teaching areas
8. Certification in some area of teaching (this may be waived in certain cases)
9. Praxis II—normally taken in the Specialty Area for certification in South Carolina
10. A personal one-page essay describing your reasons for wanting to enter the degree program.

➤ TRANSFER INFORMATION

If you have had previous graduate courses (up to nine semester hours) within five years of beginning your M.Ed. degree, and the adviser determines that these are appropriate courses for your particular M.Ed. degree curriculum, such courses may

be transferred into your Converse graduate degree program. The courses must be from an accredited institution with grades of "A" or "B."

➤ LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM

While each individual case may vary, most candidates in the M.Ed. program are working teachers who take courses in the evening and summer. Full-time teachers usually take two or three courses during the academic year and four or five in the summer. We require you to complete all of your course work over a five-year time span, starting with the first Converse course that is part of your M.Ed. curriculum. Students may begin their course work in any semester or summer term.

➤ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There are various loan programs for teachers who are:

1. Accepted into a degree program
2. Enrolled half time or more. (Half time is defined as two courses in the fall, one course in the Winter Term, and two courses in the spring)

In the summer, graduate students must take a total of six semester hours in any combination of the three summer terms to meet the half-time minimum requirement for loan eligibility. Check with the Financial Assistance Office for details by calling 864-596-9019.

➤ DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To complete requirements for the M.Ed. degree, the graduate student must:

1. Complete an approved 36-hour program in one of the designated areas of the program within a five-year period
2. Maintain an overall "B" (3.0) average. Secondary teachers must maintain a "B" average in both the academic and the professional areas. Special Education, Gifted Education, and Elementary Education students must maintain an overall "B" (3.0) average
3. Complete culminating assessments. The degree requires neither a thesis nor a foreign language; the M.Ed. student must take the Praxis II Examination Specialty Area in the appropriate degree track, if the student has not previously done so
4. Request and complete a degree application form

➤ FOR FURTHER INFO...

➤ Log on to the Converse College web site (www.converse.edu) for course offerings, frequently asked questions, and other helpful information. The office of Graduate Studies and Special Programs can be reached directly by calling 864-596-9404. E-mails should be sent to graduate@converse.edu.



LOOK TO WWW.CONVERSE.EDU FOR:

- ➔ Course schedules
- ➔ FAQ's
- ➔ Graduate catalog
- ➔ Faculty directory
- ➔ Mickel Library catalog
- ➔ Registrar forms
- ➔ Campus bookstore

...AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

CO-EDUCATIONAL GRADUATE DEGREES AT CONVERSE

Masters Degrees

- Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)
- Master of Music (MM)

Educational Specialist Degrees

- Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision
- Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction
- Ed.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy

HISTORY & DISTINCTION

Founded in 1889, Converse is a private, four-year women's college with The College of Arts and Sciences and NASM-accredited Petrie School of Music. *US News & World Report* consistently ranks Converse as a top regional college in the South. Converse has also been featured in the book *The Best 201 Colleges in the Real World*.

LOCATION

70-acre campus in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

27 buildings include The Sally Abney Rose Physical Activity Complex, Carmichael Hall, Kuhn Hall, Blackman Music Building, Milliken Fine Arts Building, 1,500-seat Twichell Auditorium, and the Montgomery Student Activities Building. \$27 million expansion and renovation to be completed in the next five years.

CONTACT

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www.converse.edu



Converse College does not discriminate in admissions or employment on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

The M.Ed. program at Converse College builds upon the already strong skills, knowledge, and commitment of experienced teachers. This popular co-educational 36-semester hour graduate study program consists of four broad areas or tracks:

- Elementary Education
- Gifted Education (the only track of its kind in SC)
- Secondary Education (English, mathematics, natural science, or social science)
- Special Education