

## **New Program Proposal**

# **Graduate Certificate in Character and Citizenship Education**

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The three program goals of the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) graduate certificate program are: (a) the understanding of theory and research in citizenship education as it relates to civic participation, concepts of democracy, the democratic purposes of education, and the development of civic identity and political thinking, attitudes, and engagement as well as the competence to apply this knowledge to analysis and design of practical programs in citizenship education; (b) the understanding of character development and character education in childhood and adolescence, including the empirical and conceptual study of the nature of how moral character develops, as well as how it can be fostered in schools by school reform, curriculum development, professional development, and practical pedagogical methods; and (c) the understanding of the connections between character and citizenship development and education.

The Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education and the Teresa M. Fischer Professor of Citizenship Education serve as program directors.

## **Admission Requirements**

Requirements for admission to the CCE certificate program are current good standing in an UMSL graduate program or all three of the following:

1. Undergraduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better
2. Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a current or former college-level instructor
3. Two-page personal statement explaining the applicant's personal and professional goal

The CCE certificate may be pursued as a stand-alone credential or in conjunction with the Master's Degree in Education and/or the Ph.D. in Education. With advance planning, all 18 credit hours from the CCE certificate can be applied to these degrees. Completion of the CCE certificate, however, does not guarantee

acceptance into any of those degree programs, which requires a separate application.

### Credit Requirements

A minimum of 18 credit hours of graduate course work is required for the graduate certificate. Twelve of these hours must consist of the four core courses in character and citizenship education. A minimum of six additional hours are to be chosen from the list of electives. At least twelve hours must be completed in residence at UMSL.

<b>Core</b>		
ED PSY 6217	Foundations Of Citizenship Education	3
ED PSY 6417	Current Perspectives On Citizenship Education <sup>1</sup>	3
ED PSY 6445	Character Education And Development	3
ED PSY 6450	Advanced Methods In Character Education <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Choose 6 hours from the following list of courses offered at the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences (with departmental permission)		6
ED PSY 6111	Psychology Of Education	
ED PSY 6115	Personality And Social Development	
ED PSY 6222	Advanced Studies in Child and Adolescent Development	
ED PSY 6310	Psychology Of Learning Processes	
ED REM 6730	Educational Program Evaluation	
HIST 6013	Historical and Theoretical Foundations of US History in Schools and Communities	
P P ADM 6340	Seminar in City Administration	
PHIL 5530	Seminar In Social And Political Philosophy	

PHIL 5538	Seminar In Ethical Theory
POL SCI 6430	Proseminar In American Politics
POL SCI 6450	Proseminar In Comparative Politics
POL SCI/P P ADM	Proseminar In Urban Politics
PSYCH 5468	Seminar: Cognitive Processes <sup>2</sup>
TCH ED 6200	Building Character and Competence with Diverse Learners
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Course-embedded capstone assessments occur in ED PSY 6417 and ED PSY 6450.

<sup>2</sup> Course instructor approval required.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S006750	Jon McGinnis	516-5439	No
S006950	Farida Jalalzai	516-5838	No
S007050	Michael G. Griffin	516-5397	No
S006650	Deborah B. Balser	516-5146	No
S004900	Louis Gerteis	516-5680	No

## Rationale

UMSL is uniquely qualified to establish a certificate program in character and citizenship education due to the establishment of a Center of Excellence in the Center for Character and Citizenship in 2005 and the historical emphasis on character and citizenship education in the St. Louis region. Schools in the United States and beyond have long recognized the need to foster the development of character and citizenship in students, yet educators tend not to receive direct training in the requisite knowledge and skills. In the St. Louis region, there has been an emphasis on character education for more than 25 years through professional development organizations, leading to a school and district interest in character education as well as almost 50 years focusing on citizenship education programs. This Certificate Program offers an extensive introduction to the required professional educator foundation. St. Louis has become a large market for this Certificate because over 600 educational leaders have graduated from the Leadership Academy in Character Education (LACE) and over 77 districts belong to CharacterPlus®, the main local professional development organization in character education. Moreover, the Citizenship Education Clearing House (CECH) has been offering parallel support for citizenship education since 1967 through programs such as Kids Vote Missouri (KVMO) and Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government (MY LOGO). The 3-day CharacterPlus® non-university-based certificate in character education has proven very popular and has been attractive to prospective employers of new educators. The Leadership Academy in Character Education has likewise proven to be a hiring advantage for educational leaders. This Certificate Program is more extensive and adds the domain of citizenship education, as well as the overlap of citizenship education with character education. Hence, this certificate would be an advantage to those seeking jobs as educators or adding to their credentials. This certificate recorded on the student transcript would identify to potential employers that the candidate has the foundation to be an integral part of ongoing efforts in schools integrating character and citizenship education into their curricula. Furthermore, the certificate can serve as a step towards the recently established (2013) Master's degree in Educational Psychology, in particular the emphasis area in Character and Citizenship Education, as well as toward the Ph.D. degree in the College of Education. This certificate program will not require additional resources, as the four required courses are taught each academic year. Existing faculty provide appropriate expertise in this specialization.