The most significant learning in a child's life occurs in early childhood.

Are you the one who will be the teacher that makes a life-deciding difference?

Are you the one who will help to close the achievement gap in Connecticut?

The Early Childhood Special Education Accelerated Program (ECSE/AP) combines the USJ Connecticut State Department of Education approved Early Childhood/Special Education program for teacher licensure with newly expanded clinical experiences to provide an intensive, research-based, practitioner-oriented teacher preparation program.

Our partners include the nationally recognized University of Saint Joseph School for Young Children in West Hartford and the acclaimed Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School in Bloomfield. Each will host pre-school and kindergarten clinical experiences. In addition, selected outstanding elementary schools provide clinical experiences for grades 1-3.

You will find fast-paced, clinical experiences during the day, combined with evening and online classes. This format sets the stage for in-depth learning and excellence in teaching to meet the needs of all young children.

Why is this program important?
1. There is a shortage of licensed teachers in early childhood education.
2. As of July 13, 2013, new licensed teachers must hold the Nursery-Grade 3 license to teach kindergarten.
3. Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy's early childhood initiative in priority school districts leads to a need for more licensed early childhood educators.

What is the curriculum?
The year-long timeframe includes
• 30 graduate credits in a non-traditional timeframe
• 10-week, 9-credit, student teaching placement in grades 1-3 in late spring, and
• 5-week 4-credit, practicum in the summer

When and where does the program meet?
Candidates learn in school settings during the day and attend their classes in the evening, either on-site at the University or online. The creative, modular course-format blended with clinical experiences effectively integrates theory and practice.

Application Requirements
• Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university.
• This program is designed for child-centered individuals who are able to study full time from August 27, 2012 through August 13, 2013 to obtain a teacher license for Nursery through Grade 3. The ideal candidate
  - Is a new college graduate who has a commitment to teaching young children
  - Is a teacher’s assistant in a pre-school setting wanting to become a lead teacher
  - Is an individual returning to the workplace after raising children
  - Is a career-changer who seeks a rewarding career with young children
  - Is a licensed teacher seeking the N-3 certification

How to Apply
Step 1
• Submit an application to the Graduate School Admissions Office, available at www.usj.edu/graduate
• Submit two sealed official transcripts from all undergraduate and any graduate work. Applicants with a 3.0 cumulative GPA will be given admission preference; a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.67 is required for consideration.

Applicants will be notified within 24 hours of the University's receipt of transcripts whether they will be invited to an admissions interview and be eligible to continue the application process.

Step 2
Decisions for continuation of the application will be made on a rolling basis as applications are received. Eligible applicants must complete the (continued on the back)
following additional admissions requirements, submitted in one packet, prior to August 17, 2012.

- Passing scores on Praxis 1 or submit a waiver
- Two letters of professional recommendation (not from family, friends, or School of Education faculty), with university recommendation forms completed, sent to the Dean of the School of Education
- An application essay
- Immunization forms

Tuition

- Tuition: $27,600 ($600 per credit for 43 credits, a fixed cohort cost for one-year completion of teacher licensure coursework and student teaching)
- Comprehensive fee: $1,720 ($40 per credit)
- A common set of texts will be used throughout the program

- BONUS: a 3-credit waiver will be provided for the final course required to complete the master of arts program, EDUC 515: Educational Research currently valued at $1800, if completed within two years of the program.

Financial Aid may be available to eligible students in the maximum amount of $20,500 per year as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan based on full-time enrollment. Contact the USJ Financial Aid Office for personalized assistance: 860.231.5223 or financialaid@usj.edu.

For additional information, contact the Graduate Admission Office at 860.231.5261 or graduate@usj.edu.

Explore Greatness at USJ

The University of Saint Joseph is a comprehensive institution with career-focused undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs. At USJ, students explore and expand their potential through personal attention in a welcoming community that offers academically challenging programs to individuals who want to succeed and make a difference in society. The University is devoted to empowering women, while also inspiring both women and men to serve in the global community. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, the University offers an education steeped in the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Mercy social values.

Directions

The University of Saint Joseph is located in West Hartford, Connecticut off I-84, exit 43/Park Road. Turn right at the end of the ramp, then take an immediate left at the first light onto Trout Brook Drive. At the fifth light, turn right onto Asylum Avenue then take the first left onto the USJ campus.