

EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTE (EPI)



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The Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) is an alternative fast-track route to Florida teacher certification. The program is designed for students who have at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university, but who may lack education courses necessary to become teachers in Florida.

The EPI program consists of 21* EPI credits. This includes 7 core courses and 2 field experience classes.

Students must demonstrate competency in the 12 Florida Educator Accomplished Practices as well as complete all course work with a grade of C or higher.

Other program requirements are completion of the Florida Teacher Certification Exams. These are General Knowledge, Subject Area and Professional Education. The EPI program prepares students for the Professional Education Exam by teaching students education pedagogy, classroom methods and giving practical classroom experience.

EPI credits are non-transferrable and are not considered college credit. EPI courses generate a separate EPI transcript.

Courses in the EPI program are short-term intensive classes. They are 45, 30 or 15 contact hours. Most classes are offered in a blended format with a combination of classroom and distance learning instruction.

While enrolled in the program students must request an Official Statement of Status of Eligibility from the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Educator Certification and must complete a level 2 background screening which includes fingerprints sent to the Florida Division of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This program can be completed in 2 semesters if students attend all classes in the order that they are offered.

EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTE Admission Program of Study Code F100

Core Courses	Institutional Credits
EPI 0001 Classroom Management.....	3
EPI 0002 Instructional Strategies	3
EPI 0003 Technology	3
EPI 0004 Teaching and Learning Process	3
EPI 0010 The Foundations of Research-Based Practices in Reading	3
EPI 0020 Professional Foundations.....	2
EPI 0030 Diversity	2
EPI 0940 Professional Foundations - Field Experience.....	1
EPI 0945 Diversity - Field Experience	1
Total Core Credits Required	21

EPI 0001*
Classroom Management,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course prepares the student to set up and maintain a classroom. Students will learn to utilize various styles of presentations and to employ varied teaching strategies including technology. Students will learn to research best practices of effective instruction and will build a developmental assessment and professional portfolio demonstrating mastery of competencies. Topics will include: record keeping, classroom management, school safety, sunshine state standards, creating content area objective based lesson plans, conducting parent conferences, assessment techniques, implications of FCAT and other standardized tests, professional ethics, and school law and the teacher. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0002*
Instructional Strategies,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course prepares the student to become proficient in the application of a variety of instructional strategies and to develop effective lesson plans that infuse technology. Topics include learning styles, Bloom's taxonomy, lesson plan development, varied instructional presentation styles, cooperative learning, group learning, contextual learning, project-based learning, behavioral management, accommodations for exceptional students. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0003*
Technology,
3 Institutional Credits
(Offered as needed)

This course prepares the student to employ technology as an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Instruction is provided in commonly used software suites and on the internet. Topics include: computer-based record keeping, multimedia presentations, content area instructional strategies, internet resources, webquests, webpage development, computer-aided instruction, integration of technology and the learning process and copyright and fair use guidelines. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0004*
Teaching and Learning Process,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course provides the student with a foundation in various learning theories as applied in the instructional process. Standardized testing, test interpretation and use of results are stressed. Topics will include stages of development, learning theories, motivation and persistence, intelligence, exceptionalities, standardized testing, critical thinking, multiple intelligences and second language acquisition. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0009*
Foundations of Language & Cognition,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course teaches language structure and function and cognition of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This instruction is grounded in scientifically-based research. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0010*
The Foundations of Research-Based Practices in Reading,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course teaches language structure and function and cognition of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Instruction is grounded in scientifically-based reading research as a mechanism to inform instructional practice. Topics include: evidence about learning to read; introduction to phonemes, morphemes, inflection and derivations; strategies for teaching basic decoding; building vocabulary; techniques for building fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension; the reading and writing connection; and reading in content areas. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0011*
Foundations of Assessment,
3 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course teaches the role of assessment in guiding reading instruction and instructional decision-making for reading progress of struggling readers. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0020*
Professional Foundations,
2 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course provides the foundation for becoming a productive member of the teaching profession. Students will gain understanding of the organization and administration of the public school, the laws governing teachers, the code of ethics, and the purpose of schools. This module develops a professional perspective and creates a sense of grounding in the profession of teaching. Topics will include history, philosophy, school governance, school finance, school law, ethics and excellence, purpose of schools and continuing professional development. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0030*
Diversity,
2 Institutional Credits,
(Offered as needed)

This course provides the student with an understanding of the variety of backgrounds and cultures that may be found in a typical classroom. It addresses how social class, religion, language, gender differences, culture and ethnicity, physical differences, and prejudices have an effect on how a student learns. The course will also cause the participant to reevaluate personal beliefs and prejudices that may adversely affect the learning process. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree.

EPI 0940*
Professional Foundations – Field Experience,
1 Institutional Credit,
(Offered as needed)

This course provides a 15 hour field experience segment in a public, charter, or accredited private school for the EPI 0020 module. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree, EPI 0020.

EPI 0945*
Diversity – Field Experience,
1 Institutional Credit,
(Offered as needed)

This course provides a 15 hour field experience segment in a public, charter, or accredited private school for the EPI 0030 module. Prerequisite: Bachelors Degree, EPI 0030.