Program Description
The Gifted Education Program provides students with an intellectual environment that enables them to refine existing expertise and develop new knowledge, practices, and skills in the areas of gifted education for diverse learners. The program is a New York State Department of Education-accredited graduate program that prepares students to teach capable or high-achieving students in grades K–12. The program also opens the door for graduates to secure leadership roles in the field.

Admission requirements include a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university and a G.P.A. of 3.0.

The program consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours in gifted education beyond an initial baccalaureate degree. Upon admission, the candidate is assigned a faculty academic advisor who assists in developing a course plan in accordance with the program requirements.

Candidates typically enroll part time (two courses per semester) for the majority of their program. Courses are offered on the Queens campus (weekday evenings) and online.

Program Benefits
The Gifted Education Program provides a means for candidates to demonstrate how to adapt curriculum theory to practice, utilize, and interpret educational technology; address the learning needs of diverse learners in the area of gifted education; and understand and conduct research. Online courses offer students flexible and convenient schedules. The 12 credits earned by completing the certificate may be applied toward fulfilling the 33-credit master’s degree program or the 60-credit doctoral degree.
Career Possibilities
The Gifted Education Program certificate is designed to develop educational practitioners who are prepared to assume roles in school-level teaching, social agencies, not-for-profit agencies, and differentiated instruction staff developers for gifted students.

Partnerships
The Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership has partnerships with educational agencies in the metropolitan area, including Nassau County BOCES, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the New York City schools. Collaborative ventures with educational institutions in Korea and Italy have also been established.

What makes our program unique? Why come here?
The Gifted Education Program at St. John’s University has an outstanding reputation for quality and completion. Faculty advisors work closely with candidates to identify current needs pertinent to the field of education and relevant to their own work contexts. The partnerships listed above provide a unique opportunity to examine issues in education along with data that reflects current challenges in the local area, region, or state. Students are expected not only to reflect on and improve their own professional practices, but also to develop leadership in facilitating the growth and development of other educators focused on gifted education.

According to the New York City Department of Education, “St. John’s graduates were rated highest in retention, the percentage of teachers still employed in the NYC DOE three years after hire; were second-best in tenure approval; had the lowest receiving ‘unsatisfactory’ ratings their first year; and 91 percent of its teacher graduates were rated ‘highly effective’ or ‘effective’ as reflected in student growth scores on fourth-through eighth-grade math and English tests.”

What’s in it for me?
The completion of this degree allows our graduates to be very competitive for high-level educational job opportunities that deal with current issues in curriculum and technology for gifted students.

Internships/Placement
The Career Center at the University provides assistance to candidates as they seek to identify opportunities for advancement.

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