College of Education

Dean
• Daniel L. Clay

Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs
• Pamela M. Wesely

Associate Dean for Research
• Saba R. Ali

Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Student Services
• Mark A. McDermott

Undergraduate major: BA
Undergraduate minors: educational psychology; human relations
Graduate degrees: MA; MAT; MS; EdS; EdD; PhD
Graduate certificates: applied behavior analysis; institutional research and effectiveness; K-12 equity and inclusion; online teaching; talent development
Website: https://education.uiowa.edu/

The University of Iowa College of Education offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including licensure, endorsements, certificates, and online programs, many of which are regularly ranked among the best in the nation. The college’s vision is to be a world-class college of education: leading research, engaging communities, and preparing education and mental health professionals for innovation and impact.

In 1847, Iowa legislators created the State University of Iowa, the state’s first public institution of higher education to provide teacher training. More than 175 years later, students from across the state, nation, and globe are drawn to the College of Education, where they can experience the rigor of an R1 research university with a personal touch, a strong sense of community, and Hawkeye pride.

The college also is home to a number of research centers, including the Scanlan Center for School Mental Health, highlighting the college’s expertise in school and community mental health counseling. Other areas of expertise include gifted education and talent development, thanks to the Belin-Blank Center, and educational testing and measurement due to the legacy of alumnus E.F. Lindquist. Lindquist created the Iowa Academic Meet, the impetus for the development of the world-renowned Iowa Testing Programs (ITP). Soon after in 1935, ITP experts authored the first Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (renamed Iowa Assessments), which revolutionized test scoring by inventing the first optical scanner, allowing tests to be accurately scored by high-speed equipment rather than by hand. Then in 1959, ITP spun off the most widely accepted college entrance exam to American College Testing Program, Inc., now known as ACT.

The University of Iowa Wildlife Instruction and Leadership Development (UI WILD) joined the College of Education in 2021, bringing a variety of experiential learning opportunities to our students. Students have the unique opportunity to take their learning outside of the classroom. There are opportunities to teach middle school students across Iowa with School of the Wild, take science education to the next level with the Iowa Raptor Project, and work hands-on with youth at Iowa Wildlife camps.

The college has four departments—the departments of Counselor Education, Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, Psychological and Quantitative Foundations, and Teaching and Learning.

Extramural Education

Through Distance and Online Education, selected College of Education courses are offered at off-campus sites and hours outside the traditional schedule. If taken after formal admission to a specific program, some of these courses may be applied to meet requirements for degrees. Students who plan to complete a degree program should apply for admission to the Graduate College and satisfy all application requirements for the degree program they wish to enter.

Special regulations govern such coursework. Students should obtain prior approval from their program advisor before registering for extramural courses. Students not regularly admitted to the University of Iowa also may register for extramural courses, but credit earned before admission does not count toward residency requirements.

Honors in Education

The Honors Opportunity Program is open to undergraduates in the College of Education who are interested in pursuing either a research-based or context-based culminating project. Honors Opportunity Program students must take EHOP:4100 Honors Seminar in Education, EHOP:4101 Senior Honors Project, and complete five additional honors experiences while working with a self-selected mentor and the HOP facilitator at the Belin-Blank Center. Students in the program typically have a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 in their major and 3.33 overall but interested students with lower GPAs are encouraged to apply. Successful completion of the program results in recognition of the student as a College of Education honors graduate.

Faculty

All tenure-track faculty members hold earned doctorates in their teaching fields, and many have had teaching or administrative experience in public schools. Several hold joint appointments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.