

# Graduate Studies Programs

## Urban Elementary Education

### About the Program

The Simmons College graduate program in Urban Elementary Education is an innovative two year program designed to address the complex issues faced by teachers in urban classrooms. Students in this program will expand their skills and knowledge by matching pedagogy to classroom situations. They will examine teaching theory through the lens of the urban setting to understand the dynamics and resources of the urban community. Students in this program strengthen their teaching practice by examining curriculum and teaching strategies for inclusive urban classrooms, and are provided with advanced curriculum training, personal coaching, and collegial support. Simmons coaches work closely with degree candidates during both years of the program, providing mentorship and classroom support. Coaches help students to identify and achieve individual goals for professional development. Students will develop impressive portfolios of lesson plans, assessment methods, and sample work.

The program follows a cohort model – a group of 15 - 18 students who work together for the duration of their studies. Students work with faculty to learn how to develop fair and effective classrooms. The cohort provides a safe environment for students to discuss challenges, get inspiration and support, and share best practice strategies. Each cohort group becomes a strong collegial network that continues to offer personal and professional support beyond the Simmons program. Students say the cohort quickly becomes one of their most valuable professional resources.

To apply to this unique program, you must be a licensed teacher employed by an urban public school district, hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and have taught for less than five years. Simmons College is committed to supporting urban educators and substantially subsidizes the Urban Elementary Education Program tuition.

### Degree Options

The Urban Elementary Education program is a two year program with classes beginning with seven day summer sessions and scheduled weekends throughout the school year. There are two degree options that students may pursue – the 32 credit Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) and the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.). The C.A.G.S. degree is an advanced graduate program that provides a student who currently holds a master's degree with an area of specialization. The C.A.G.S. course of study requires faculty approval and a final project.

*“Our cohort became a second family to me. No matter what the challenges were, I never felt alone. Each of us shared a common goal – to make the educational experience of Boston Public School children the best it could possibly be.”*

CHRISTINA HOENIG '02GS  
M.S.ED, URBAN EDUCATION;  
J. M. CURLEY SCHOOL, BOSTON



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## Coursework

### Year 1

GEDUC 409	Achieving Mathematical Power
GEDUC 415	Building Fair and Effective Classroom Communities
GEDUC 418	Understanding Curriculum
GEDUC 497	Teaching Reading in the Urban Elementary Classroom

### Year 2

GEDUC 417	English Language Learners in the General Education Classroom
GEDUC 493	Topics in Urban Education I
GEDUC 495	Practicum for Development
GEDUC 494	Topics in Urban Education II

## Recent Graduates

If you would like to speak to a recent program graduate about the Urban Education program, please contact:

### Natalie DiCostanzo

Special Educator  
Ohrenberger Elementary School, West Roxbury  
617-842-3295 or natdc22@netscape.net

### Caitlin Gaffny

4th grade teacher  
Tobin School (K-8), Roxbury  
617-635-8393 or chegarty@boston.k12.ma.us

## Educational Promise

Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community. Simmons College was named a "Best College" in its category in the 2006 *US News & World Report*. Simmons was also included in the 2006 *Princeton Review* "Best 351 Colleges," and was named among the "Best in New England" in the first-ever edition of *Princeton Review's Best Northeastern Colleges*. Simmons believes passionately in an educational promise that places students first, helping them build successful careers and realize a powerful return on their educational investment.

## Contact Us

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