

Master of Social Work *and* Master of Arts in Education

JOINT DEGREE
PROGRAM

The Master of Social Work/Master of Arts in Education joint degree program prepares graduates for teaching and leadership of educational institutions and processes. MSW/MAEd graduates fill a significant local and national need for professionals with the holistic understanding needed to lead effective educational reform.

MSW/MAEd PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students in this program earn two degrees from Washington University in St. Louis: a Master of Social Work degree from the Brown School and a Master of Arts in Education degree from The Graduate School.

In the Brown School's top-ranked MSW program, students learn to identify and address connections among children, families, school systems and communities. Course content emphasizes management and leadership.

The university's Department of Education excels in preparing students for teaching and leadership of educational institutions and educational processes. Coursework is grounded in social foundations of education, educational psychology and applied linguistics.

Students learn to understand the links between academic achievement and social and emotional well-being. They are uniquely prepared to foster classroom environments where all children are empowered to succeed. As alumni, they are committed to addressing pressing challenges facing schools, increasing student achievement, and shaping education policy.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS: 96 CREDIT HOURS

This accelerated joint degree program requires completion of 96 credit hours, taken over three years. Students enroll in 48 credit hours at the Brown School and 48 credit hours in the Department of Education.

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES

MSW/MAEd students have four opportunities for immersive learning with real-world impact.

In practicum for the MSW program, students work with a field advisor to select from sites such as:

- KIPP: St. Louis Public Charter Schools
- Saint Louis Public Schools District
- Riverview Gardens School District

In student teaching for the MAEd degree, students meet with a field placement specialist. The Department of Education has partnerships with a number of local school districts, including public, private and independent schools.

CAREER PATHS

Graduates of the MSW/MAEd program will be prepared to remove barriers to student learning; to thrive in leadership positions in the classroom or in education administration; and to implement policy changes that drive educational equity. Alumni with this unique skill set pursue career paths within traditional and charter public school districts, youth development agencies, and education agencies.



"I chose the Brown School and Washington University because I wanted to learn from faculty whose research is outstanding and meaningful. As a student, I have worked alongside professors and with the university's Institute for School Partnership program. Recently, I led a group of African American girls in a math curriculum that incorporated research on famous African American female mathematicians. The program allowed the girls to see that they know math, that they can be good at math, and that they can make a difference."

TASHA JORDAN
MSW/MAEd Candidate '18

“With the focus on social work and education, the MSW/MAEd prepares students to address the unique needs of students in urban classrooms. This program empowers students with the knowledge and skills to become transformative leaders.”

—SHERETTA BUTLER-BARNES

Co-Chair, MSW/MAEd Joint Degree Program



Sheretta Butler-Barnes is an assistant professor at the Brown School and co-chair for the MSW/MAEd joint degree. Her research is based in addressing structural racism and developing strategic ways to address inequalities in education. Her work is currently focused on advancing equity for women and girls of color, with a concentration on building resiliency through identifying assets and resources that serve as protective factors.



Ron Banfield teaches in the Department of Education and serves as co-chair of the MSW/MAEd joint degree. Banfield’s research focuses in areas of science education, university/school district partnerships in diverse settings and development of local and national standards in educator preparation programs.

MSW CURRICULUM

MSW/MAEd students pursue the Brown School’s Children, Youth and Families or Individualized Concentration. Courses may include:

- Policy and Services for Children and Youth
- Social Work Settings in Public School Settings
- Core Concepts in Trauma Treatment for Children
- Theoretical & Empirical Bases for Practice with Children, Youth & Families

MAEd CURRICULUM

Graduates of the MAEd program gain State of Missouri certification in elementary education. Department of Education courses may include:

- Educational Psychology: A Focus on Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Teaching Reading in the Elementary School
- Linguistics and Language Learning
- Education, Childhood, and Society

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

Year	Semester	School or Program	Credits	Fieldwork
1	Fall	Brown School	15	Foundation Practicum
	Spring	Brown School	17	
2	Summer	Brown School	2	Elementary Methods Field Experience
	Fall	Department of Education	16	
	Spring	Department of Education	18	
3	Fall	Department of Education	14	Student Teaching
	Spring	Brown School	14	Concentration Practicum



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APPLICATION INFORMATION

To pursue the joint degree, students apply to each program separately and must be admitted to both. To learn more about the programs, please contact:

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