



2025-26 Student Handbook



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About the School of Education

Welcome to the School of Education at Azusa Pacific University! We are so excited that you have decided to become a member of the next generation of great educators. We look forward to partnering with you as you develop as both a professional and an individual.

Since 1963, the School of Education has championed a tradition of excellence, building a reputation for producing many of Southern California's finest professionals-classroom teachers, school counselors and psychologists, principals, and superintendents. These APU graduates are making a lasting difference as creative, collaborative, and compassionate educators and dedicated advocates for students' growth and development.

The School of Education is part of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Mission Statement

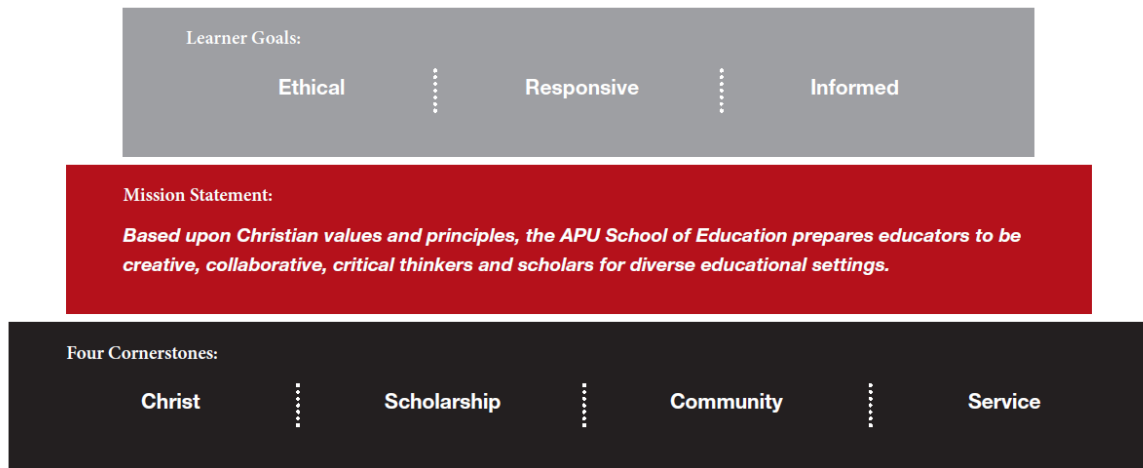
The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences empowers students to lead transformative work in society, reflecting God's love for the world and Christ's example of humble service that promotes justice and human flourishing.

Jesus said, "I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10b

School of Education Conceptual Framework

The School of Education's conceptual framework emphasizes the development of ethical, responsive, and informed individuals by faculty with these same characteristics, within the context of the four cornerstones of Azusa Pacific University — Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service.

School of Education Conceptual Framework



Programs Offered

The School of Education offers comprehensive education programs in the following areas of study:

- [Elementary and Secondary Education](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [School Counseling and School Psychology](#)
- [Educational Leadership](#)

Accreditation

- Azusa Pacific University is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).
- The School of Education is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).
- The School of Education credential programs are approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
- The Educational Specialist Degree in School Psychology and Master of Arts in Education: Educational Psychology with embedded Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Psychology programs are approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).
- The Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) course sequence is approved by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

Contact List

The following staff members assist each specific School of Education program/office:

Department of Teacher Education			
Program Coordinator	Julie Magana	jmagana@apu.edu	626-387-5791
Program Coordinator	Allison Galindo	agalindo@apu.edu	626-815-5082
Program Coordinator	Allison Rotundo	arotundo@apu.edu	626-815-6329
Student Placement Coordinator	Sarah Hernandez	sehernandez@apu.edu	626-815-2025
Department of Educational Leadership			
Program Manager	Vacant		626-815-2136
Department of School Counseling & School Psychology			
Program Coordinator	Ruth Tjakra	rtjakra@apu.edu	626-815-3862
Administrative Assistant	Claire Martinez	cmartinez@apu.edu	626-815-5424
School of Education Dean's Office			
Administrative Manager	Patty Larson	plartson@apu.edu	626-815-5348
Accreditation & Assessment Specialist	Kelly Harwell	kharwell@apu.edu	626-815-6323
Office of Credentials			
Credential Analyst	Cassandra Boyd	caboyd@apu.edu	(626) 815-6163
Credential Analyst	Ann Plumb	aplumb@apu.edu	(626) 815-5445
Credential Analyst	Wendy Ramsey	wramsey@apu.edu	(626) 815-5455
Credential Analyst	Lacey Romano	lromano@apu.edu	(626) 815-5093

University Catalog

The [University Catalog](#) is the official guide to academic programs at Azusa Pacific University and includes information about [graduate academic policies and procedures](#) and [undergraduate academic policies and procedures](#), as well as general descriptions of academic programs, and degree requirements. The catalog also consists of information regarding APU's institutional beliefs such as the [faith statement](#), [mission statement](#), [essence statement](#), and [Cornerstones](#).

Please refer to the APU [University Catalog](#) for comprehensive information regarding university policies affecting academic policies. It is the student's responsibility to also be aware of any policies or requirements that are specific to their program. Below are select sections within the Catalog that are important for School of Education students:

Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students
Concurrent Enrollment	Enrollment
Course Policies	Adding and Dropping Classes
Major and Minor Policies	Administrative Withdrawal
Registering for Classes	Late Enrollment
Withdrawal from Courses	Withdrawal from Courses
Withdrawal from the University	Withdrawal from the University
Classification of Students	Leaves of Absence
Course Incompletes	Course Incompletes
Academic Policy Exceptions	Petition Process
Grade Appeal Policy	Grade Change Process
Academic Grievance Policy	Grievance and Appeal Procedures
Repeated Courses	Repeated Courses
Transfer Credit	Transfer Credit
Waivers	Waivers

All School of Education students need to be familiar with [School of Education Academic Policies](#) and with [School of Education Program Expectations](#).

Incompletes for Graduate Students

In addition to the [graduate catalog policy regarding course incompletes](#), the School of Education has adopted the following additional guidelines for course incompletes:

- The Graduate Catalog specifies "the grade *IN* (Incomplete) is to be given only if special circumstances exist." As a general rule, "special circumstances" refers to an illness or other extenuating circumstance that legitimately prevents completion of the course requirements by the end of the academic term.
- An incomplete cannot be granted because of a student's failure to complete work, or as a means of improving a grade already earned within the specified grading period.
- Furthermore, an incomplete should only be issued if attendance has been satisfactory up to the last day to withdraw in the term. In addition, students should have completed at least 75% of the coursework.
- To obtain an incomplete, the student must fill out the [Graduate Incomplete Form](#) and obtain all necessary signatures before the last day of the term. However, it should be noted that submission of an Incomplete Form does not guarantee approval. As such, students should be encouraged to submit their completed forms prior to the last week of class to allow sufficient time for processing.
- "The grade IN (Incomplete - No Paperwork) is a temporary grade issued while the Incomplete Form is in process" (e.g., the form has been filed with the Office of the Dean but has not been processed). Students should be aware that a grade of I or IN can only be assigned if an Incomplete Form has already been submitted.
- *While the Graduate Catalog states, "An Incomplete may be granted for up to 12 weeks from the last day of the term."* However, 12 weeks should not be automatic, and it is not advisable for programs

that are taught in 8-week sessions to allow completion of remaining course requirements to extend beyond an additional eight weeks. Faculty are encouraged to extend the least amount of time needed to complete the remaining coursework, so as to not disadvantage students by having coursework overlap significantly into future terms.

Academic Integrity and Student Codes of Conduct

The University's academic integrity policies are educational tools for guiding faculty, staff, and students in creating a sense of community and for expressing the values that are at the core of a Christian university. The academic integrity policies speak to the responsibilities faculty, staff, and students have to one another to be faithful in attempts to represent others' views, and it helps in understanding responsibilities toward academic scholarship aligned to the moral standards of the APU community. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) website to access undergraduate and graduate academic integrity policy brochures and violation reporting forms.

Azusa Pacific University is an institution built on the [Four Cornerstones](#): Christ, Scholarship, Community, and Service. The Community Cornerstone is foundational to our standards of conduct. Visit the university catalog for more information about standards of conduct for [graduate students](#). Community living expectations for [undergraduate students](#) are available on the University website.

Campus Resources

APU provides a number of resources to assist students with their academic success. Below are descriptions for a few of those resources, as well as links to the resources on the main APU website:

Student Services Center: Traditional Undergraduate, Graduate and Professional Students

The Student Services Center serves as the hub of enrollment and financial resources and services for all students proceeding through all academic programs. Housed in one convenient office, the Registrar, Student Financial Services, Military and Veteran Education Benefits, and International Student Compliance work as an integrated team to provide students with the tools they need to proceed through their academic program and manage their financial account

Accessibility and Disability Resources: Accessibility and Disability Resources (ADR) coordinates a number of direct services for undergraduate and graduate students with specific disabilities. Upon documented verification of the disability, ADR defines academic accommodations individualized based on the learning needs of each student. For an appointment to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure full participation and the successful completion of course requirements, students should call (626) 815-2067.

Writing Center: The Writing Center coaches APU students to improve their own writing by employing a better writing process. We can help any APU student with any kind of writing project at any stage of the writing process.

Military and Veterans Services and Resources: Azusa Pacific University is a military-friendly college committed to honoring those who serve our country by making a quality education for military members, veterans, and their families an affordable reality.

University Counseling Center: Accredited by the [International Association of Counseling Services](#), the University Counseling Center (UCC) exists to empower the students of Azusa Pacific University to realize their personal and academic potential by promoting psychological, social, and spiritual wellness through Christian counseling and outreach services.

Campus Store: The one stop shop for everything textbook related.

IT Support Center: The IT Support Desk supports faculty, staff, and students with direct IT services and by resolving IT problems.

Campus Safety: Provides a safe and secure learning environment for the university community.

Student Health Center: The Student Health Center supports the university by evaluating, treating, maintaining, and promoting optimal physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of the APU student body. The Student Health Center can also assist students with any questions related to health insurance.

University Libraries: The Azusa Pacific University Libraries support the research pursuits of APU students, faculty, staff, and the community. Maintained by expert library faculty and staff, the libraries

offer access to varied collections, special collections, and an extensive catalog of print and electronic resources, bringing the information you need within reach.

Title IX: Learn about your [Title IX](#) rights and help us create a university community centered on personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect, and dedicated to the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

Bias Incident Reporting: Azusa Pacific is committed to fostering a welcoming and safe environment for all members of the university community, and encourages all members of the university community who have witnessed or experienced a bias incident to report it.

2025-26 Academic Calendar

Below is a list of key dates related to term start and end dates, registration periods, add/drop deadlines and withdrawal deadlines. The full 2025-26 academic calendar can be found [online](#). Please be sure to identify the particular sessions that are applicable to your program and/or courses.

Undergraduate

	Fall 2025 (Traditional 16 Week Session)	Spring 2026 (Traditional 16 Week Session)	Summer I 2026 (5 Week Session)	Summer II 2026 (5 Week Session)
Classes Begin	Monday, August 25, 2025	Monday, January 5, 2026	Monday, May 4, 2026	Monday, June 8, 2026
Last day to add classes	Wednesday, September 3, 2025	Wednesday, January 14, 2026	Wednesday, May 6, 2026	Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Last day to drop classes	Friday, September 5, 2025	Friday, January 16, 2026	Friday, May 8, 2026	Friday, June 12, 2026
Withdrawal Deadline	Friday, October 31, 2025	Friday, March 13, 2026	Friday, May 22, 2026	Friday, June 26, 2026
Classes/Final Exams End	Friday, December 12, 2025	Friday, May 1, 2026	Friday, June 5, 2026	Friday, July 10, 2026

Graduate

	Fall 1 2025 (Traditional 8 Week Session)	Fall 2 2025 (Traditional 8 Week Session)	Fall 2025 (Traditional 16 Week Session)	Spring 1 2026 (Traditional 8 Week Session)	Spring 2 2026 (Traditional 8 Week Session)	Spring 2026 (Traditional 16 Week Session)	Summer 2026 (Traditional 8 Week Session)
Classes Begin	Monday, August 25, 2025	Monday, October 20, 2025	Monday, August 25, 2025	Monday, January 5, 2026	Monday, March 9, 2026	Monday, January 5, 2026	Monday, May 4, 2026
Add/Drop Deadline	Tuesday, September 2, 2025	Monday, October 27, 2025	Tuesday, September 2, 2025	Monday, January 12, 2026	Monday, March 16, 2026	Monday, January 12, 2026	Monday, May 11, 2026
Withdrawal Deadline	Tuesday, September 30, 2025	Tuesday, November 25, 2025	Thursday, November 6, 2025	Tuesday, February 10, 2026	Tuesday, April 14, 2026	Thursday, March 26, 2026	Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Classes End	Friday, October 17, 2025	Friday, December 12, 2025	Friday, December 12, 2025	Friday, February 27, 2026	Friday, May 1, 2026	Friday, May 1, 2026	Friday, June 26, 2026

Academic Advising

Academic advising promotes student development and helps to improve students' overall experience within the School of Education. Through academic advising, School of Education students learn about the requirements of their academic program and are able to explore their strengths in relation to personal and occupational choices. While the program advisor is a guide and resource, final responsibility for meeting requirements to complete a program rests with the student. **Students that deviate from their original academic plans must contact their academic program to be re-advised.**

The following are brief descriptions of academic advisement for programs within the School of Education:

Liberal Studies Major and Minor

Undergraduate students in the Liberal Studies Major or Minor can reach out to Program Director, Dr. Catherine Hahs Brinkley (cbrinkley@apu.edu), for information on undergraduate academic advising.

Teacher Education

Students are advised and receive an approved academic plan prior to the start of their program. Advising is provided by the student's Credential Analyst. This academic plan lists all program requirements and the timeline to complete those requirements. If a student deviates from the approved academic plan, the student must schedule a re-advisement appointment.

Educational Leadership

During the first semester of the doctoral program, students enroll in a 1-unit proseminar course, which serves as an orientation and initial advising into the program. Each new doctoral student is also assigned to a faculty advisor who serves as the student's primary mentor during the first semester.

Upon successful completion of the first semester, and once a student begins dissertation work, the dissertation chair serves as the primary academic advisor for the remainder of the student's time in the program. The Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership Dissertation Handbook is available on the School of Education Handbooks webpage.

School Counseling/School Psychology

Candidates in the Department of School Counseling and School Psychology follow the scope and sequence provided at the beginning of their programs. Exceptions, changes, and questions regarding scheduling issues may be resolved by contacting the program directors. All School Counseling and School Psychology full time faculty are available for advisement throughout the duration of the program for which candidates are enrolled. The School Counseling and School Psychology program handbooks are located on the School of Education Handbook webpage.

Course Cancellation

School of Education courses with low enrollment may be cancelled. The Program Directors and Chairs of the department make the decision if the course is cancelled and will advise the candidates on appropriate substitution alternatives for the term.

InPlace

Azusa Pacific University's School of Education utilizes InPlace Tools to support clinical experiences in all of our degree and credential programs.

All candidates in programs that include field experience, practicum, fieldwork, internship, clinical practice, student teaching, etc. are required to use InPlace throughout their enrollment in the School of Education.

All candidates are required to submit particular applications, documents and other forms in InPlace as they progress through their program. These forms must be submitted in InPlace by the deadline specified in the course syllabus or handbooks. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that they have the appropriate InPlace account and access for the courses in which they are enrolled.

InPlace inquiries can be addressed by contacting:

APU School of Education

Phone: (626) 387-5744

cebsassessment@apu.edu

Student Dispositions

Students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct and appearance through their entire credential, master's, or doctoral program, both in the coursework and in the field.

As a requirement of each program, dispositions are assessed at specified checkpoints. During each course, if dispositional issues arise with a student, instructors will complete a Dispositional Notice (i.e. meet with the candidate to develop a remediation plan and report same to the program director so continued adherence can be monitored).

Graduate Grading Scale

The School of Education follows the university grading scale for all graduate courses, which results in students receiving a letter grade (A-D). Courses with a grade lower than B- (including NC grades) are not applied to master's, educational specialist (Ed.S.), or doctoral (Ed.D.) degree requirements and must be repeated. Additionally, grades lower than B- (including NC grades) are not applied to credential/certificate requirements and must be repeated. The grading scale is as follows:

95-100=A	89-91=B+	78-80=C+	65-69=D
92-94=A-	84-88=B	73-77=C	
	81-83=B-	70-72=C-	

Office of Credentials

There is a team of credential analysts to support credential candidates as they work towards their goal of earning a California Educator's Credential. It is the candidate's responsibility to submit a credential application upon completion of a credential program to receive their Credential. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or e-mail. To contact a credential analyst, or to obtain a credential application, please contact the Office of Credentials (626-815-5346) or soecredentials@apu.edu. The [Office of Credentials Website](#) is an additional source of information for news, testing, credential application and contact information.

Certificate of Clearance

All students in the School of Education must have a valid Certificate of Clearance (or other appropriate document) issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that requires a background check before they engage in any clinical experiences with minors. Students are required to maintain their Certificate of Clearance (or other appropriate valid CTC document) throughout their enrollment in a School of Education program. Graduate students who allow their Certificate of Clearance or other clearance document from the CTC to expire will be prevented from enrollment in future terms. Certificate of Clearance instructions from the CTC can be found in [Leaflet CL900](#). Please see the following [link](#) for steps to apply for your Certificate of Clearance with the CTC.

CPR Certification (Department of Teacher Education students only)

Verification of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training that meets the standards set by the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association is needed prior to recommendation for issuance of the Preliminary Multiple Subject, Single Subject, or Education Specialist credential. Please provide verification of having completed Infant, Child and Adult CPR training by submitting a photocopy of the front and back of your signed CPR card. This may be submitted to the Office of Credentials either in person, by mail, or by email attachment.

Acceptable Forms of CPR Certification

- American Red Cross
 - Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED
(800) 627-7000
 - <http://www.redcross.org>
- American Heart Association
 - BLS for Healthcare or Heartsaver CPR AED
(877) 242-4277
 - <http://www.americanheart.org>
 - CPRToday.com

School of Education Alumni & Professional Services

The School of Education is committed to the success of our students and alumni and provides ongoing support related to Alumni and Professional Services. The School of Education offers a wide range of professional

development and alumni engagement opportunities, career pathways, and establishes partnerships with districts and other educator hiring agencies.

Our website serves as an additional resource to our alumni, educator hiring professionals, faculty, and staff. Visit our website to find a broad range of resources, services, and a calendar of events:
<https://sites.google.com/apu.edu/soealumni/home>

Professional development opportunities include:

- Educators' Career Seminar
- Educators' Hiring Fair
- Webinars

We encourage students to network with us and School of Education alumni through our social media platforms:



Scholarships

School of Education graduate students have the opportunity to apply for a number of scholarships that are designated specifically for School of Education students. All scholarship applications and deadlines can be found via [ScholarshipUniverse](#).

APU Email

The School of Education requires that all of its students use and maintain their APU email account throughout the duration of their program. All email correspondence the School of Education sends to students is via their APU email address. **Students are to check their APU email accounts on a regular basis for information from their particular program, the School of Education, and the University.**

APU's Information Technology (IT) team has provided an [article](#) on how to forward APU emails to a personal email account.

Health Related Information

Azusa Pacific University has made the determination not to require COVID-19 vaccinations at this time, but instead to strongly encourage all employees and students to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible, if they are medically able to do so in consultation with their medical professional. The programs within the School of Education that lead to an educator credential require clinical experiences at K-12 district and school sites. Most K-12 district and school sites with whom APU partners require individuals to be fully COVID-19 vaccinated before being allowed onsite. Accordingly, a student's inability to establish full COVID-19 vaccination is likely to prevent the student from being allowed to participate in clinical experiences required to progress through and complete their educator credential program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I go if I have questions about advising?

Each program within the School of Education has very knowledgeable individuals who are ready to assist our students regarding questions about their programs and coursework. Students seeking an advisement appointment are encouraged to contact the [office of their specific program](#).

Where do I go if I am having issues with Canvas?

Students that encounter a technical problem related to Canvas that requires immediate attention should contact the IT Support Center at support@apu.edu or (626) 815-5050. Students that encounter a problem that seems unique to their particular class should contact the instructor of the class for assistance. Students that need assistance with technical questions related to Canvas can also go to the [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

Where do I go if I have questions about Watermark?

Students that forget their login information will need to contact Watermark Mentor Services at 1-800-311-5656 or support@watermarkinsights.com.

All other Watermark inquiries, including the reactivation of an inactive account, should be directed to soewatermark@apu.edu. Basic Watermark navigation and support tools can be found online at <https://www.watermarkinsights.com/support/>.

How can I receive information about parking?

All graduate students, **regardless of location and course load**, are required to register their vehicles with the [Department of Campus Safety](#). As required, a parking permit will be issued to the student and must be appropriately displayed to allow for parking at any of the APU facilities. Complete Campus Safety's [online vehicle registration](#) and you will receive your parking permit in the mail. If you are earning your degree online, you do not need to register for a parking permit. Parking permits are valid for the academic year (September–August).

How do I register for classes?

The Student Services Center provides instructions regarding how to register for classes online within the following [link](#).

What if I cannot find the class that I need to register for?

Students should contact the [program representative for their particular program](#) for clarification regarding the availability of their needed class. Students may also contact the [Student Services Center](#) (626-815-2020) for information about a class that is currently listed on the schedule.

What are important dates that I should be aware of each term?

APU's website contains the [calendar](#) for the academic year. The calendar contains important academic registration dates and vacation periods.

How do I find the textbooks for my class?

The textbooks for courses are available on the [APU Campus Store](#) website.

Is financial aid available?

Azusa Pacific University offers a variety of ways to help students pay for their program. From [scholarships](#) and grants, to loans and company reimbursement, we are committed to ensuring that cost doesn't keep students from reaching their educational goals. Information about [financial aid](#) is available online.

For personal assistance regarding what financial aid is available for the particular program to which you are seeking admission, please contact the Student Services Center at ssc@apu.edu.

Are scholarships available?

School of Education students may access a variety of financial aid opportunities to fund their studies at Azusa Pacific University. View [APU Scholarship Universe](#) for more information on scholarships, fellowships, grants, and loan assumptions.

For questions about School of Education scholarships, students may email schoolofed@apu.edu.

Who can assist me in applying for my credential?

Completing credential coursework does not equate to having a California Educator Credential. It is the candidate's responsibility to submit a credential application through the [Office of Credentials](#) upon completion of a credential program to receive their California Educator's Credential.

A [credential analyst](#) can assist with the application for a credential with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Each credential analyst services candidates according to their last names. Candidates who do not know the name and/or contact information of their credential analyst can contact the [Office of Credentials](#) at (626) 815-5346 for clarification.

How can I become intern eligible?

The process for becoming intern eligible varies from program to program. Candidates may contact their [credential analyst](#) for specific information regarding their particular situation.