Teacher Education at CUNY

The City University of New York (CUNY) is the nation’s largest urban, public university comprised of 25 colleges and serving more than 270,000 degree-seeking students. Within this system, nine (9) CUNY colleges prepare teachers and building leaders for New York State certification. Six (6) community colleges have education programs and are an important part of CUNY’s teacher pipeline. CUNY enrolls more than 18,000 students yearly across 500 individual academic programs in education. At the undergraduate level, one out of every 20 undergraduate degrees granted by CUNY in 2016-17 was in education. At the graduate level, more than a third (34%) of Master’s degrees, and more than half (52%) of advanced certificates granted in 2016-17 were in education programs. In fact, Education is the largest graduate area within CUNY.

Figure 1

Total Fall Enrollment in CUNY Education Programs
NY State Trends in Teacher Education

New York State's colleges prepare more teachers than any other state's despite national and NY state trends for decreased enrollment in teacher education programs. The graphs below represent CUNY's contribution to teacher preparation in the state.

Figure 2  
Number of Graduates of Classroom Teacher Programs, by Sector (IPEDS Classification)

In 2016-2017, CUNY comprised 21% of all NYS graduates of classroom teacher programs, but 36% of graduates of color.

Figure 3  
Percentage of NYS Teacher Graduates (IPEDS Classification) Produced by Sector, All Teachers vs. Teachers of Color, 2016-17

In 2016-2017, CUNY comprised 21% of all NYS graduates of classroom teacher programs, but 36% of graduates of color.

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1 U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. Higher Education Act Title II reporting system 2017
CUNY Trends

From Fall 2014 to Fall 2018, bachelor's enrollments increased 16%. From AY 14-15 to AY 17-18, graduates of CUNY education programs increased by 10%.

Figure 4

Fall Enrollment, All Education Programs, by Degree Level

Source: CUNY Institutional Research Database (IROB)

Figure 5

Number of Graduates, All Education Programs, By Degree Level

Source: CUNY Institutional Research Database (IROB)
Increasing Diversity at CUNY

The majority of CUNY’s education students are people of color: 63% of teacher candidates and 70% of education students overall (includes associate; all fall 2018).

CUNY’s education cohorts are growing more diverse each year. From 2010 to 2018, teacher candidates of color have increased from 61% to 73% of bachelor’s students and 37% to 53% of master’s students.

CUNY works closely with the NYC Department of Education to increase teacher diversity: For fall 2016 CUNY applicants to the NYC DOE from traditional certification programs, 50% of recent graduates self-identified as people of color. This grew to 62% for fall 2018.

Also in support of diversity, CUNY-prepares an outsized share for New York State in certificates issued in Bilingual Education (40% of the state; 2016-2017).²

For more information about CUNY’s education programs, visit www.cuny.edu/teachered.