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FAQ: STEM + ED Teacher Preparation Program

Why STEM + Education?

School systems across the country are experiencing extreme shortages of highly qualified, content-expert STEM teachers. These school systems are specifically looking for individuals with specialized STEM degrees, such as Science or Math, who are also qualified and certified to teach. Our STEM Teacher Preparation Program is specifically designed to meet the demands for content expert STEM teachers by requiring the STEM major, for content expertise, and the Education minor and certification exam preparation to qualify our students for teaching.

Will an Education minor really prepare me for teaching?

Yes! Our Education Minor is one of the most comprehensive minors offered at Saint Leo. Students will study all of the major education topics that majors also cover, including education history, philosophy, governance, classroom organization and management, class assessments, an understanding of adolescent learners, content area (biology or math) teaching methods, and field placements.

Will I have to work with two academic advisors, one in each of the major and minor disciplines?

No. Each of the STEM + ED students is provided with one specialized and dedicated faculty advisor who bridges both disciplines and will help the student to navigate the demands of both the STEM major and the Education minor.

Other than teaching, how else can an Education minor help me?

The Education Minor can be beneficial for informal teaching settings that might occur when working with members of the public at zoos, aquaria, museums, nature centers, etc., and also in any type of work setting where the skills of teaching – organization, information and people management, assessment, and time management are beneficial.

Is it possible to complete all of the degree requirements in four years?

Yes. Your dedicated academic advisor will work with you to create a four-year plan to complete both your STEM major and Education minor. Sometimes, however, degree completion may need to be extended if the student declares the minor after the second year or a major/minor course needs to be repeated.

Will I have to take summer courses to complete the degree requirements?

No. If the student declares the STEM major and Education minor in the freshmen year and stays on track, with no need to repeat courses, then no summer courses will be required. Summer courses are, however, optional for students wishing to utilize the summer semesters to get ahead or get back on track. Some of the education courses are also offered in an online format that can help manage course load in each semester.

Will this STEM Teacher Preparation Program prepare me to teach in a state other than Florida?

Our faculty and programming prepare students with the essential skills needed to teach in any setting (public or private) and in any location (local or abroad). Teaching certification requirements do, however, vary by state. Students will be directed to resources for learning how to meet the teaching certification requirements for the state of interest.