

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Program Overview

Program Coordinator	Robyn Sheridan, (845) 257-2827, sheridar@newpaltz.edu
Program ID	073
Credits	15
Program Length	This program can be completed in two semesters, but students must complete program within 5 years
Modality	In-person or Hybrid
Full-time/Part-time	Part-time
Transfer Credits	0
Capstone	Capstone Course

Program Description

This 15-credit program is for childhood, adolescence, and special subject teachers, school guidance counselors and administrators, and informal educators who want to enhance their skills and knowledge of social justice education. Designed for professionals who already have their master's degree, this certificate program enables educators to understand ways in which race, gender, social class, language, sexual orientation, religion, and ability influence them as professionals, their students, and the educational process. It provides educators with the knowledge and skills needed for fostering socially just, culturally sustaining teaching, leadership, and educational settings.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Evidence of interest in multicultural/social justice education.
- An official copy of all graduate transcripts indicating evidence of a master's degree in education from an accredited institution with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- Contact information for two school district officials, administrators, or colleagues who have agreed to provide a letter of recommendation.
- A 2-3 page personal essay describing your current educational initiatives in multicultural/diversity education and/or your goals for future endeavors for fostering greater appreciation of diversity in your classroom and school.

Application Deadlines

July 19	Fall Admission
December 20	Spring Admission

Accepting on a rolling basis until the program is full. For full consideration, however, applications must be submitted by the deadline.

Upon receipt of a completed application, the applicant will be contacted to schedule an interview with Robyn Sheridan and Asilia Franklin-Phipps to complete the application process.

Curriculum Requirements / 15 credits

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course (3 Credits)		
EDS581	Race and Gender in Education	3
Social Justice Education Electives (9 Credits)		
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
EDS537	Issues in Multicultural Education	
EDS546	Conflict Resolution in Education	
EDS547	Education of Self for Professionals	
EDS549	Issues in Literacy for Diverse Learners	
EDS550	Expressive Arts and Social Change	
EDS552	Restorative and Transformative Justice and Practice	
EDS555	Antioppressive Pedagogies and Practices	
EDS732	Group Dynamics	
EDS741	Social-Emotional Learning for Social Justice	
EDS753	Leadership in Education and Human Service Settings	
SPE565	Teaching in Inclusive Classrooms	
Capstone Course (3 Credits)		
EDS793	Ed Studies Selected Topics	3
Total Credits		15

Note: Graduate courses taken prior to admission to the Certificate Program cannot be applied to students' plans of study for this program. All graduate courses will be taken at SUNY New Paltz.

Program Requirements

Students complete 15 graduate credits of course work which include a 3-credit introductory course, 9 credits of electives, and a 3-credit capstone course, and must achieve a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. At the completion of the program, an Advanced Certificate in Social Justice Education will be granted by the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Note: Graduate courses taken prior to admission to the Advanced Certificate Program cannot be applied to students' plans of study for this program. All graduate courses will be taken at SUNY New Paltz.

Graduate Checklist

- Apply for graduation via my.newpaltz.edu under "Graduation" tab according to the schedule in the [academic calendar](#).
- Resolve any pending admission conditions (outlined in your acceptance letter) and/or missing documents if applicable.
- Review your progress report via my.newpaltz.edu to ensure that you have completed all program requirements.
- Remember that only two grades below a B- may be applied to your [plan of study](#)
- Contact your advisor if you need to amend your plan or process [transfer credit](#).
- Ensure that you are in [good academic standing](#) with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or higher.

- Pass your capstone or culminating assessment.
- Complete your degree within the specified time limit outlined in the Program Overview.

Program Learning Outcomes

Social Justice Education (Advanced Certificate)

We are attempting to know, learn, and be differently. This work is and always will be unfinished. As we learn new information and ways of being, we are also cognizant that social justice work must be sustainable for self, community, and society. In our program, students work toward:

- **Social Justice Content Knowledge**

Understanding that systems of inequality shape our lives and institutions, they will engage social justice education to foster more sustainable, equitable, and just relationships.

- **Applying Theory to Practice**

Utilizing processes of self-reflection and assessment, they will engage in action and reflection (praxis) that center justice-oriented theories, beliefs, values, and relationships.

- **Critical Analyses**

Drawing on reflective, critical thinking, listening, and questioning practices, they will integrate critical analyses into their educational work.

- **Fostering Equity**

Recognizing that social inequalities reflect an inability or unwillingness to be in positive relationship with difference, they will foster educational and social equity that seeks to transform relationships and share power across differences.

- **Participatory, Collaborative Approaches to Pedagogy**

With an understanding of embodied, antioppressive, and experiential learning practices, they will employ creative, holistic, collaborative approaches in their pedagogical settings.

- **Written and Oral Communication**

Practiced in small and large group discussions, presentations, and in applying feedback to their own work, they will effectively communicate orally and in writing, including through qualitative research that reflects social justice principles.

- **Socially Responsible Leadership**

Understanding connections between personal, institutional, and social change, they will lead as ethically and socially responsible human beings in their workplaces and communities.