



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The education program at Brandeis has two missions: preparing reflective teachers who excel in the classroom and examining the institution of education. Our faculty members, as well as the veteran elementary and secondary teachers who mentor Brandeis students, understand that schools must challenge and build on the strengths of all students. Students who major or minor in education studies grapple with some of our country's most challenging issues, such as the achievement gap and overreliance on standardized testing. Students are able to personalize their majors or minors by selecting relevant elective courses from the psychology, sociology, American studies, economics and philosophy departments.

### What makes the program distinctive?

Brandeis prepares effective pre-school, elementary and secondary teachers and future teacher leaders. Undergraduates who pursue the teacher education minor combine an outstanding liberal arts education

with strong teaching preparation. Those who successfully complete this minor and pass the M.A. teacher tests can graduate with an initial certification that is recognized in 46 states.

## FAST FACTS

**Current number of majors and minors:** 63

**Number of faculty:** 7

**Can you minor in this program?** Yes

**Popular second majors:**

American studies, biology, chemistry, English, history, mathematics, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, psychology, sociology, theater arts

**Website:**

[brandeis.edu/programs/education](http://brandeis.edu/programs/education)

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## ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

### Course offerings

Recent courses include “Reading (and Talking Back to) Research on Education,” “Looking with the Learner: Practice and Inquiry,” “Reading, Writing and Teaching Across Cultures” and “Jewish Education in Modern America.”

### Faculty research

Professor Tara Brown uses participatory action research to learn about the resilience of urban students. Professor Sharon Feiman-Nemser is researching mission-driven schools, including Jewish and urban schools. Professor Dirck Roosevelt is examining the critical importance of creativity and imagination in educating future teachers. Professor Joe Reimer is studying informal education in Jewish camps. Professor Marya R. Levenson is researching teacher leadership. Professor Jon A. Levisohn is a philosopher of education, with a focus on the teaching and learning of history and of Jewish texts.

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## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

### Experiential learning

Undergraduates learn how to think differently about teachers and their students during the laboratory experiences in school classrooms that are an essential part of our teacher education classes. Seniors experience the challenges and pleasures of teaching during a semester of student teaching. Education studies majors or minors often choose to do an internship in the field; some elect to study education policymaking in Washington, D.C., or in other countries during their semester abroad.

### Volunteer opportunities

Brandeis students can volunteer with several student groups at nearby elementary, middle and high schools to assist teachers. One-on-one tutoring and after-school programs also provide learning options. In addition, students can volunteer and work in the Lemberg Center, an excellent early-childhood program right on the Brandeis campus.

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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### Excellence in education

**Michelle Forman '55** was selected as the 2001 Vermont and U.S. Teacher of the Year. **Linda Shapiro '62** recently served as president of the New England Association for College Admissions Counseling. **Marya R. Levenson '64**, professor and co-president of Public Schools for Tomorrow, was awarded the Louis Dembitz Brandeis Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2008. **Manuel Rivera '74**, who was honored as the National Superintendent of the Year in 2006, is the CEO of Global Partnership Schools.

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## AFTER BRANDEIS

### Graduate programs

The master of arts in teaching (M.A.T.) program prepares students to become highly qualified, licensed classroom teachers. Two degrees are offered: the M.A.T. in elementary education and the M.A.T. in secondary education. This full-time, 13-month program is organized around a view of teaching as practical intellectual work dedicated to enlargement of human capacity at the individual and societal levels.

### Diverse career fields

Recent Brandeis graduates have gone on to become teachers in public, charter and private schools in Boston, New York, Chicago, Miami and San Diego, as well as suburban districts in Westchester, N.Y., and Newton and Framingham, Mass. One is serving as a teacher of the deaf at the Central Institute for the Deaf. Other graduates have become guidance counselors and psychologists. In addition, alumni include a judicial law clerk in the Massachusetts Trial Courts system, a policy analyst in the state department and an associate manager at Time Inc.

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*“The Brandeis education program provided me with an unparalleled foundation in educational theory and experience, and it continues to encourage and support my educational growth.”*

*Daniel Braunfeld '03, teacher in a New York City high school*

