


“ Bank Street College provided me with an extremely supportive, nurturing environment to share my ideas, personal stories and developing education philosophies. Whether speaking to a fellow student, instructor or administrator I knew that my thoughts were valued and understood. This was important to me as a career changer who was new to education. ”

Dana, Childhood General Education



“ Bank Street has taught me how to closely observe each child to individualize education. I may not have fit into the original mold of school that I grew up in, but I can help create a new mold that fits all children. The founder of Bank Street Lucy Sprague Mitchell writes that, ‘Our work is based on the faith that human beings can improve the society they have created.’ It is up to us as educators to continue to act out this philosophy. ”

Eileen, Infant and Family Development and Early Intervention/
Early Childhood Special and General Education

“ Students are taught in the way Bank Street hopes you will teach your own students—using an inquiry-based, investigative, hands-on approach. You will be taught by the best of the best, and by teachers who are passionate about teaching. When you tell someone in the education field that you graduated from Bank Street, you will get a positive reaction, no matter where you live. ”

Nicole, Leadership in Mathematics Education

Academic Programs

Academic Programs

All graduate programs include three components: course work; supervised fieldwork advisement; and a culminating integrative activity. There are four academic terms: Fall, Spring, Summer 1, and Summer 2.

Course Work

Courses provide students with the opportunity to engage in readings, discussions, and experiences that address enduring and current aspects of education. The course work in all programs emphasizes human development and its variations; the historical, philosophical, and social foundations of education; and curriculum and inquiry. Through a variety of intellectual and experiential means, students acquire understanding of the role of education in promoting appreciation of human diversity. Course instructors challenge students through assignments, problem-solving tasks, and models of active learning.

Graduate courses are generally held during weekday evenings (Monday through Thursday), from 4:45 pm to 6:45 pm and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. In the Summer 1 term, courses are generally held between the hours of 5:30 pm and 9:00 pm. In the Summer 2 term, courses are offered during the day as well as in the evening. Courses designed for the Museum Education, Museum Leadership, and summer-residency master's programs follow a different timetable.

Supervised Fieldwork/Advisement

One component of a Bank Street education, unique to this College, is supervised fieldwork/advisement (SFW/A), a multifaceted process which enables students to integrate the study of theory with practice. This may include work as a teacher, an educational leader, a museum intern, or a Child Life specialist.

During the period of supervised fieldwork/advisement, the advisor visits the student in fieldwork settings for half-days at least once a month. If the student is a student teacher, assistant teacher, or teaching intern, advisors also work closely with the cooperating classroom teacher. In addition, the advisor and student meet twice monthly for in-depth consultative meetings.

In addition to meeting individually, the advisor and his or her students (usually a group of six or seven) meet together weekly. This "conference group" provides a setting in which students collaborate with fellow learners as they explore the challenging issues that face them as educators in their field placements. Throughout this crucial time of supervision, an advisor supports and encourages each student to develop his or her professional capacity. Through individual and group meetings, students learn more about their practice while being supported by others, and they gain perspective and reflective insight into their own prac-

tice as teachers or leaders. They learn to apply material from course work to their practice and to reflect on this process. Students are expected to participate as responsible professionals in all facets of supervised fieldwork/advisement.

Some programs, including most Educational Leadership programs and some Special Education programs, have a different structure for supervised fieldwork/advisement. Fieldwork for some Teacher for America students may also be configured differently. See individual program listings for the description of their respective supervised fieldwork/advisement structures.

Supervised Fieldwork/Advisement Options for Students in General, Special, and/or Dual Language/Bilingual Programs

Graduate students in general education, special and general education, or dual language/bilingual education programs may choose to do supervised fieldwork/advisement as student teachers, assistant teachers, or head teachers. Students in the Early Childhood or Childhood General Education programs may also be eligible for a limited number of internships. In addition to the supervised fieldwork/advisement semester(s), many programs leading to state certification require additional supervised experiences during the summer terms or during the school year. See individual program descriptions for details. An explanation of the differences among the fieldwork options follows.

Student Teachers

Student teachers are typically placed in three to four different public and independent school sites over the course of the supervised fieldwork/advisement year. Students, advisors, and the program director discuss placements, and decisions are made based on the availability of placements with consideration for the student's professional needs and interests. Typically, the student teaching schedule requires three full days per week (unpaid); however, in some cases, other scheduling arrangements equivalent to three full days are made.

Assistant Teachers

Assistant teachers are employed by a school five days a week and are responsible for obtaining their own positions, which must be approved by the Bank Street program director as a supervised fieldwork setting appropriate to the student's program. The supervised fieldwork/advisement process entails collaboration among the graduate faculty advisor, assistant teacher, and head teacher. During the fieldwork/advisement year or over the following summer, assistants in General Education programs expand their supervised experiences to include other age groups and diverse student populations and school environments by taking EDUC 991, a one-credit course.

Head Teachers

Individuals who are head teachers in public or independent schools may be supervised in their own classrooms upon the Graduate School's approval of the school site or center. Since the teacher's own classroom is the training site during supervised fieldwork and the faculty advisor will be making regular visits, the school principal/director must approve of the teacher's participation in the program. The principal/director also needs to be aware that the teacher's instructional approaches and curriculum in the class may change as the result of the advisement process. The faculty advisor and the program director communicate with the school administration as appropriate. Where necessary, head teachers in General Education programs expand their supervised experiences to include other age groups and diverse populations and school environments by taking EDUC 991, a one-credit course.

Interns (Teacher Preparation)

(Internships are available only to students in Early Childhood General Education or Childhood General Education.)

Each year, some placements are available for interns who will work with children in classrooms four full days a week. The internships carry a stipend. Interns are hired as faculty members in some independent schools that have such arrangements with Bank Street College. Interns have a total of two placements over the course of the year, most often in the same school, at two different age levels. A few interns have the opportunity to spend one semester interning in a New York City public school. During the fieldwork/advisement year or over the following summer, interns expand their supervised experiences to include diverse student populations and school environments by taking EDUC 991, a one-credit course.

Internship Certificate Credential

The Internship Certificate Credential is a temporary New York State teacher certification that allows a graduate student who has completed at least one-half of the credits required for the master's degree program to teach in a New York City public school. Students must be matriculated in a program that leads to certification and be in good standing. They must also have a written job offer from a particular school for a job in the same certification area as the degree program in which they are enrolled. The Internship Certificate is limited to a particular school and lasts up to two years. Bank Street faculty serve as mentors to graduate students teaching under the Internship Certificate.

Integrative Master's Project

Bank Street degree programs require students to complete an Integrative Master's Project (IMP). As the culminating component of a student's degree requirements, it is expected to be a significant, academically rigorous body of work that integrates many facets of the student's experiences at Bank Street and in the field and applies theoretical knowledge to students' current and future work as educators and educational leaders. Students in all the General Teacher

Education programs, Special and Dual Language/Bilingual Teacher Education programs, Child Life, and the Studies in Education program choose one of the options described briefly below. Students are encouraged to discuss their choices with their advisors early in their studies at Bank Street. An overview of each of these options is available online. Faculty and current students will find complete information about each option on the IMP Web site on my.bankstreet, available from a link on the faculty or student my.bankstreet home page or from a link at www.bankstreet.edu/gs/integrativemastersproject.html.

Independent Study: This is a student-initiated project or formal study guided by a faculty mentor. The schedule for this option varies but students generally work on it over two semesters. A Commence Form signed by a student's advisor or program director and faculty mentor is required for registration, which can occur during the registration period for any term.

Portfolio: Reflective essays on artifacts (documents, student papers, videos, objects, etc.) from your professional and academic experiences, organized and presented thematically. Individual mentoring and monthly small peer-group meetings at Bank Street. September - May (Application due preceding late June).

Mentored Directed Essay: Students who register for this option will be assigned a mentor by program faculty and will meet with their mentor in person or via phone/email four times during the semester. The completed essay will be read by the mentor. Directed Essay questions for each program are posted on my.bankstreet.edu. Available Fall, Spring, and combined Summer 1 and 2 semesters. Students register online or in person during the registration period for each semester.

Site-Based Inquiry and Collaborative Student-Faculty Inquiry: In both options, a faculty mentor will work with a group of 4-6 students, meeting four times during a semester to define and carry out a small-scale site-based research study. Students electing to do a Site-Based Inquiry will define the focus of their individual inquiry. For the Collaborative Student-Faculty Inquiry, the faculty mentor chooses the group topic within which students identify a specific area of focus. Faculty mentors and meeting schedules for the two inquiry options as well as specific topics for the Collaborative Student-Faculty Inquiry will be posted before registration begins each semester. Available Fall and Spring semesters only.

For students in selected Educational Leadership programs, the Leadership Professional Seminar or a program specific portfolio is the culminating activity. Because of culminating work at Hunter, students in the Infancy Dual Degree program with Hunter College are exempt from the Integrative Master's Project requirement.