Bachelor of Arts in Education

The Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College actively supports the goals and mission of Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University through its work with students enrolled in any of the college’s undergraduate education programs. The college is setting a new standard for teaching, discovery and innovation, and offers effective programs for students interested in teaching in both school and community settings. Its iTeachAZ program, in partnership with Phoenix metropolitan schools, as well as several rural schools in the state, won the prestigious ASU President’s Award for Innovation in 2012 because of its rigorous preparation of teachers. It also won the 2014 Award from the National Association of Teacher Educators.

Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College programs are offered on all three ASU campuses - Polytechnic, Tempe and West. Programs of study lead to degrees that include:

1. Early Childhood (Birth – Grade 3) and Early Childhood Special Education (Birth – Age 5) Dual Certification, Tempe Campus
2. Elementary Education (Grades 1-8), All Campuses
   a. English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education focus, Tempe Campus
   b. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) focus, Polytechnic Campus
   c. Gifted focus, West Campus
3. Secondary Education (Grades 7-12), All Campuses
4. Special Education (Grades K-12) and Elementary Education Dual Certification (Grades 1-12), Tempe, Polytechnic and West Campuses
5. Educational Studies* (non-certification degree), All campuses

*Educational Studies is a flexible major that prepares professionals to work with or on behalf of children/youths in non-school settings such as advocacy organizations, after-school programs, recreation programs, and for-profit and nonprofit organizations that provide products and services for children/youths and their families. This major is also popular with students who plan to pursue advanced degrees in fields that focus on serving children/youths, including: physical therapy, speech therapy, counseling, etc. The Educational Studies BAE does not lead to teacher certification.

Advisors

Drs. Juliet Hart-Barnett (Juliet.hart@asu.edu), Pamela Harris (pamela.j.harris@asu.edu) and Martha Cocchiarella (fran96@asu.edu) are the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Faculty Honors Advisors and work with students to match Thesis Directors with student interests. Elizabeth Youngdale (elizabeth.youngdale@asu.edu) serves as the Teachers College Advisor for Barrett students. She assists students with scheduling and course advising issues.
Enrichment Contracts and Honors Courses in Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

For students accepted into Barrett, opportunities exist for developing Honors Enrichment Contracts in both lower and upper division courses while completing requirements within Teachers College. As with all honors courses, Enrichment Contracts must be designed and completed under the direction of a regularly appointed full-time faculty member. Elizabeth Youngdale (elizabeth.youngdale@asu.edu) can assist students in identifying courses taught by full-time faculty each semester.

In addition, SPE 222 Orientation to Education of Exceptional Children has a Tempe section specially designated for Barrett students. This course is open to majors and non-majors alike.

Completing an Honors Thesis in Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

Honors students complete their Honors Thesis/Creative Project under the direction of a Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Faculty Mentor who serves as Thesis Director, assists with the thesis or creative project, and whose professional interests support the student’s thesis topic. Completion of an Honors Thesis/Creative Project in Teachers College reflects the expectations of the Honors College. Honors students are encouraged to work with faculty from other colleges if their areas of expertise support the project.

Honors students are strongly encouraged to focus on an area of interest, identify a Thesis Director, and begin the process of completing their Honors Thesis/Creative Project upon acceptance into the professional program, which is typically at the beginning of the junior year. Projects can be completed during the junior or senior year; however, many students choose to do their projects early so that they can focus on student teaching during the senior-year residency.

Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College offers a maximum of 6 credits for Honors Thesis/Creative Project work. Students who select a Teachers College faculty member to serve as Thesis Director register for TEL 492 Honors Directed Study during the design and data collection portion of their work, and for TEL 493 Honors Thesis during the semester they complete and defend their work.

Completing aspects of honors work within the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College is a valuable, fulfilling experience for both students and faculty. Faculty involved in the growth and mentoring of undergraduate students are rewarded with opportunities to reflect on their own teaching and learning. Similarly, students who systematically examine relevant issues in the field of education are more effectively prepared for future scholarly work and work as a professional.