

St. Johns River State College

*Helping you gain the professional qualification you need for
an exciting new career in education!*

Educator Preparation Institute

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- Program Facilitators:
 - Dr. Myrna Allen, Dean of Arts and Sciences
 - Dr. Mary Ann Kester, Associate Dean of Adult and Teacher Education
 - Mrs. Dawn Boles, Teacher Education Coordinator

Educator Preparation Institute



- Overview of EPI Program
 - EPI Courses
 - EPI Entrance Requirements & Application Process
 - EPI Program Cost
 - Statement of Eligibility
 - 3 Required Florida Teacher Certification Exams

EPI Program



- Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs) authorized by Senate Bill 2986, Education Personnel 2004, S. 1004.85, F.S.
- Intended to help meet the need for teachers in Florida by increasing routes to the classroom for mid-career professionals who hold a baccalaureate degree but were not education majors.



EPI Program

- SJR State's EPI Program is designed to provide the knowledge necessary to obtain a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate and prepare you for the Florida Professional Education Test.

EPI Program



- Completion of an EPI Program Satisfies:
 - The Professional Preparation Courses listed on the Statement of Status of Eligibility (SOE)
 - The Demonstration of Professional Education Competence
 - The Practical Teaching Experience requirement



Required EPI Courses

- 24-25 credit hour program (depending on program of study)
 - 8-9 online courses
 - 2-3 field experiences
- All classes are offered online every semester (with the exception of EPI 0940 and EPI 0012)
- The entire EPI Program can be completed in 12 months

Required EPI Courses



- EPI 0001 Classroom Management (3 credits)
- EPI 0002 Instructional Strategies (3 credits)
- EPI 0003 Technology (3 credits)
- EPI 0004 The Teaching and Learning Process (3 credits)
- EPI 0010 Foundations of Research-based Practices in Reading I (3 credits)
- EPI 0011 Foundations of Research-based Practices in Reading II (3 credits)
- EPI 0012 Foundations of Research-based Practices in Reading III (1 credit)
*EPI 0012 is only required for students seeking certification in Elementary Education K-6, PreK/Primary Education (PK-3rd), Exceptional Student Education K-12, English Grades 5-9, and English Grades 6-12.
- EPI 0020 Professional Foundations (2 credits)
- EPI 0940 Field Experience: Prof. Foundations (1 credit)
- EPI 0030 Diversity (2 credits)
- EPI 0945 Field Experience: Diversity (1 credit)

Application Process



- Requirements:
 - Possess a Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum overall GPA of 2.5
 - Statement of Eligibility (SOE) from the Department of Education
 - Possess a disposition suitable for becoming a teacher

Application Process

- Submit all the following to the Teacher Education Office:
 - EPI Application
 - Official College Transcripts – unopened
 - Copy of Statement of Eligibility
 - Copy of FTCE score report
 - SJR State Application with \$30 application fee
 - Submit application and fee online
 - Fully complete the Florida residency information
 - Copies of required residency items:
 - Driver License (Issue date over one year old!)
 - Voter ID Card or past 2 years of vehicle registrations

Application Process

- Complete an interview with the Teacher Education Coordinator to determine the applicant:
 - Possesses the disposition suitable for becoming a teacher
 - Has good moral character
 - Is competent and capable of performing the duties, functions, and responsibilities of an educator
 - Is sensitive to community and cultural considerations
 - Is willing to work with other professionals to ensure student success
 - Has respect for students, parents, and other educators
 - Is able to establish a positive learning environment
 - Has effective verbal and non-verbal communication
 - Has enthusiasm for teaching



EPI Program Cost

- 2024-2025 Tuition: \$108/credit hour
- Distance Learning Fee: \$13.00/credit hour
- EPI Program: 24-25 credit hours
- Total cost of the EPI program (tuition and fees) for students paying in-state tuition is approximately \$3000.
 - Please keep in mind that this amount does not include books and is subject to change due to an increase of tuition and fees. Tuition information can be found in the college catalog:

https://www.sjrst.edu/catalog_handbook.

Financial Assistance



- Financial Assistance is available for EPI Students
 - Student Loans are available through the FAFSA. Please contact our Financial Aid Department at 386-312-4040 for additional information.
 - Payment Plan: SJR State now offers Nelnet TIPS. Call the Business Office at 386-312-4121 or 386-312-4125 for more information.

Completing EPI

- To receive a Professional Teaching Certificate through EPI:
 - Complete & pass ALL Florida Teacher Certification Exams (FTCEs) – passing score reports must be on file with our office
 - Complete & pass ALL EPI coursework with an A or B grade
 - Have an **“Eligible”** SOE or valid Temporary Teaching Certificate on file in our office
 - Complete portfolio on file with our office (completed in EPI 0020 – Professional Foundations)
 - Complete and pass all field experiences



Statement of Eligibility

- Apply online with the DOE
 - Choose certification area in the subject you desire to teach. The DOE will not choose a subject area for you.
- Takes about 8 weeks to receive the actual SOE after they receive your official college transcripts.
 - If your SOE states “Not Eligible”, in *most* cases completing the Subject Area Exam will change your SOE to “Eligible”.
 - **Must** have official **Eligible** SOE on file before starting the program.
 - Subject Area Exam **MUST** match the Statement of Eligibility!

Florida Teacher Certification Exams (FTCE)



- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TEST (GK)
 - Take before entering the EPI program
 - English, Math, Reading, & Essay (4 parts)
 - Equivalent GRE scores or a Masters Degree or higher in any subject from an accredited institution can be used to satisfy the GK test requirement.
- SUBJECT AREA EXAM (SAE)
 - Take before entering the EPI program OR
 - A Masters Degree in the subject area you are seeking certification in may be eligible to satisfy the subject area exam requirement.
- PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TEST (PEd)
 - Take prior to last semester OR
 - Current teachers can be exempted from the Professional Education Test if they have earned a Highly Effective summative rating on their most recent evaluation in the academic year closest to their EPI completion date.
- Register online at www.fl.nesinc.com

Questions?



For more information:

Call: 386-312-4242

E-mail: teachereducation@sjrstate.edu

Fax: 386-312-4101

Mail documents to:

Teacher Education Department:

St. Johns River State College

5001 St. Johns Avenue

Palatka, FL 32177

- **SJR State College Non-Discrimination Statement:** St. Johns River State College, an equal access institution, prohibits discrimination in its employment, programs, activities, policies and procedures based on race, sex, gender, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information or veteran status. Questions pertaining to education equity, equal access or equal opportunity should be addressed to the College Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer: Charles Romer, Room A0173, 5001 St. Johns Avenue, Palatka, FL 32177; (386) 312-4074; CharlesRomer@sjrstate.edu. Anonymous reporting is available at [SJRstate.edu/report](https://sjrstate.edu/report). Inquiries/complaints can be filed with the Title IX Coordinator/Equity Officer online, in person, via mail, via email or with the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Atlanta Office, 61 Forsyth St. SW Suite 19T10, Atlanta, GA 30303-8927.