

# CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

*Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degrees*



“The program’s embrace of interdisciplinarity allows each student to have a highly tailored program of study, providing an intellectually stimulating and relevant environment.”

—DEREK FORD  
*Ph.D. candidate*

Cultural Foundations of Education (CFE) is an interdisciplinary graduate program leading to the master of science (M.S.) and doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees.

CFE was created to foster and support fundamental inquiry into the nature of education. Students draw on history, philosophy, sociology, and other disciplines to analyze issues related to inequality in education. Faculty interests include disability studies, the relationship of popular culture and mass media to education, immigration, race, racism and multiculturalism, identity and difference, qualitative research methods, democracy and education, intergroup dialogue, theories of knowledge, and feminist theory. Our alumni have success finding jobs in higher education, foundations, policy research, school systems, and government agencies.

WHY GRADUATE STUDENTS CHOOSE CFE at Syracuse University’s School of Education:

- Each student’s program is individually designed. You may build your own program around your research interests. CFE encourages the use of diverse research approaches, such as the combining of philosophical analysis with empirical work, or historical research with policy analysis.

- CFE supports interdisciplinary work. Students have the opportunity to take courses from across the broad spectrum of Syracuse University’s schools and colleges, including the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

(over)

## RECENTLY OFFERED COURSES

- Critical Issues in Dis/Ability and Inclusion
- Universal Design in Education and Learning
- Gender, Sexuality and Disability
- Dialogue in Action
- Inequality and Intergroup Relations
- Epistemology and the Politics of Knowledge
- Gender, Education and Culture
- Gender, Power and Knowledge
- Qualitative Methods
- Race, Power and Politics
- History of Urban Education
- Critical Whiteness Studies
- Education and Social Policy and Disability



“Cultural Foundations of Education was the ideal choice for me as a graduate student because it gave me the power to choose what I wanted my coursework to look like. I came in thinking I would have to yield to a certain way of thinking, and instead CFE allowed me to not only draw outside of the box but paint a beautiful mural using my studies as the canvas.”

—VALERIE MARTINEZ

- Students may work in exciting new areas of educational research, including disability studies, gender studies, popular culture, critical race theory, critical whiteness studies, and intergroup dialogue.
- Faculty members are well-known leaders in their fields, engaged in ongoing research. Graduate students collaborate with faculty in research, publishing, and professional activities.
- We are a close community of scholars. CFE regularly sponsors opportunities for students and faculty to share their work, discuss current issues, and critique current articles. We believe that the social and personal aspects of community are important for students to flourish.

CFE graduate degree programs are designed for the student seeking a broad education with disciplinary competence, rather than a narrowly specialized program of study. Our interdisciplinary structure enables you to examine a variety of conceptual frameworks for evaluating educational ideas and practice as well as social policies. We encourage you to develop awareness of the complexities, strengths, and weaknesses of different intellectual approaches and to develop special competence in one or more of these.

You may choose to concentrate in the history of education, philosophy of education, sociology of education, race and racism, gender and education, popular culture, or disability studies. Some of these concentrations have a more disciplinary focus

(e.g., philosophy of education). Others are more interdisciplinary (e.g., disability studies or gender and education), with issues rather than fields of study propelling coursework.

You may draw upon all the resources of Syracuse University, a comprehensive research university, to develop programs that meet your needs.

CFE encourages you to participate in a variety of professional activities. If you are interested in teaching, we help you develop professional competence. Your development as a research professional will be accelerated by opportunities to work with faculty members on a variety of research and consulting activities and participate in professional conferences.

The CFE program offers particularly strong resources for training in qualitative methods. Many of our graduates find that their sophisticated training in this research approach enhances their competitiveness for university faculty or research positions.

Our blend of scholarly and professional study prepares you for a wide variety of career positions: college or university faculty member, foundation officer, researcher, policy analyst, author, consultant, administrator, and curriculum developer. CFE graduates work for private organizations and public institutions, holding positions in education at the local, state, federal, and international levels.

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

### CONTACT

#### School of Education

Cultural Foundations of  
Education Department

Barbara Applebaum, Chair

Maryann Barker  
315-443-3343

[soe.syr.edu](http://soe.syr.edu)