The Certificate in Social Justice and Education examines equity in educational policy and practice. It provides students with a foundational understanding of the social inequities that shape education and broader society. Students also learn how educators, students, administrators, parents, and community members have effectively responded to these inequities.

This certificate prepares UW–Madison students to critically analyze the role education policies and practices play in broader social inequalities and social justice efforts. Students connect course concepts and ideas to both their own lives as well as to historical and contemporary social and educational issues in education (in the U.S. and/or globally).

All current UW-Madison undergraduates are eligible to complete the Certificate in Social Justice and Education. Students intending to complete this certificate should visit the School of Education’s Certificate Programs (https://education.wisc.edu/academics/certificates/) page to complete the declaration form.

Students pursuing the Education Studies major or the Certificate in Educational Policy Studies are not eligible to complete the Certificate in Social Justice and Education.

The Certificate in Social Justice and Education requires the following course distribution for a minimum of 12 credits. At least 6 credits must be completed in residence. Completion of the certificate requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in certificate coursework.

This course provides students with foundational knowledge about social justice in education that they can build from and connect to their other coursework and assignments as part of the certificate.

Select three additional courses that have a central focus on social justice in education. Two of the three must be in ED POL coursework. These courses meet most or all of the certificate’s Learning Outcomes, and enable students to tailor the certificate to their specific topical and disciplinary areas of interest (e.g. historical perspectives on social justice and education, social justice and education in the U.S., comparative/global studies of social justice and education).
CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student’s undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how education, and education policy and practice specifically, has been used as a tool for both social justice and the (re)production of inequality in the United States and/or globally.

2. Identify and describe the social inequities that shape education and broader society, as well as how various social actors (e.g. educators, students, administrators, parents, and community members) have responded to these inequities through their social justice efforts.

3. Draw from theory and research to analyze issues of social justice in education.

4. Demonstrate an ability to apply critical thinking skills to the study of inequities in education, by recognizing and questioning knowledge claims and their own assumptions and preconceived notions.