

HISTORY AND MISSION

History

The School of Education, organized officially as a separate academic division in 1954, was the result of the University of Kansas City's involvement in professional education since 1940. At that early date the University was offering an M.A. in education, heavily liberal-arts laden, with most classes conducted in the summer and evenings. An undergraduate major in elementary education was established in 1952, and the first University of Kansas City doctoral program, the Ph.D. in education, was inaugurated with the organizing of the school in 1954. Since 1954, the school has grown to include three disciplinary divisions with more than 20 programs, offering bachelor of arts, master of arts, graduate certificates, educational specialist, doctor of philosophy, doctor of education and interdisciplinary degree programs. Several degree and certification programs are offered in cooperation with the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, the UMKC Conservatory, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mission & Values

The mission of the School of Education is to recruit, prepare, and support outstanding teachers, mental health professionals, and educational leaders who will create lifelong opportunities for the diverse communities they serve through excellence in teaching, research, and practice. This mission is centered on six key values which embody the knowledge, skills and dispositions expected of our candidates across the School of Education. The goals defined by individual programs are more specific subsets of these broader values:

1. Academic excellence
2. Strategic innovation
3. Inquiry leading to reflective decision-making and problem-solving
4. Skilled and knowledgeable professionals working collaboratively
5. Democracy, diversity, and social justice
6. Creating caring and safe environments

Vision

To be a leading urban-serving School of Education, committed to social justice and transformation in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the region, and beyond.