

The Department of Human Resource Development

The Department of Human Resource Development was created in 1981 as a result of a reorganization in the College of Education and Human Development. The department consists of graduate programs in Adult Education, Counselor Education, and School Psychology. The department also has the responsibility for teaching all courses related to human development and the family for the College of Education and Human Development.

The purpose of the Department of Human Resource Development is to improve the individual practices of human services professionals and enhance community, organizational, agency, and educational practice through education, research, and public service.

There are three graduate programs offered by the department. They are: (1) Adult Education, with concentrations in adult development and life stories, community education, educational gerontology, public school adult education director certification, student affairs in higher education, teaching adult learners, training and development, and a self-design concentration; (2) Counselor Education, with specialties in school counseling, rehabilitation counseling, clinical mental health counseling; and (3) School Psychology.

The Department also offers three Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) programs. They are: C.A.S. in Adult Learning, C.A.S. in Counseling, and C.A.S. in Couple and Family Therapy.

Summer institutes and other professional development activities are offered on a regular basis. The department has been active in cooperating with other graduate programs within the University system. Faculty are actively involved with organizations, individuals, and agencies in the local and regional community.

Historical Perspectives of Adult Education

The Masters of Science in Adult Education program is the only graduate program in Adult Education in northern New England. Originally established in 1972 to meet the region's need for trained public school administrators of adult education programs, the program today prepares adult educators who work in a variety of organizational and community settings. Today's students are teachers and administrators in higher education as well as in non-school settings including hospitals, recreation agencies, businesses, community and human service organizations. They work as trainers, teachers, staff development specialists, administrators, program designers, program directors, organizational change agents and consultants. A master's degree is offered through on-line courses so that students from around the state may enroll.

In 1995, the Post-Masters Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Adult Learning, was designed for the experienced educator/teacher, counselor, administrator, program planner, or policy maker who works with adults in any educational setting, or seeks or explore the use of adult learning strategies as an alternative educational approach for working with younger learners.

Because of its unique beginnings, the program always has had a distinct character. Commencing as a field-based and state-wide program, it is now regional, flexible, and service-oriented. Courses are offered occasionally in central Maine as well as southern locations. Over the years, the program has provided services to hundreds of professionals, formally admitted over 430 students, and produced over 400 graduates. Increasingly, the program has become attractive to teachers, trainers, and staff developers in hospitals, home health, human services, and recreation agencies, as well as to educators in public school settings. Also, staff trainers in business settings will find the program responsive to their needs. In recognition of its new audience and of the changing roles of adult education across society, the department has revised graduate-level training in the field and aims to continually update its curriculum. Specialized courses of study are now available in training and development, educational gerontology, English as a second language, counseling and in community and international education.