The School of Education

About Northcentral University

Founded in 1996, Northcentral University (NCU) is a regionally accredited, private, online and graduate-focused university serving professionals globally. Northcentral University offers doctoral, master’s and bachelor’s degrees in business and technology management, education, psychology as well as marriage and family sciences. Courses are taught one-to-one by a member of NCU’s 100 percent doctoral faculty, and there are no physical residency requirements. Northcentral University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS).

Northcentral University educates professionals throughout the world by providing an opportunity to earn a U.S. regionally accredited degree online. We are committed to helping our students achieve academically and become valuable contributors in their communities and within their professions.

About the School of Education

The mission of Northcentral University’s School of Education at Northcentral University is to prepare professional educators at all levels to become effective leaders, reflective practitioners, and successful communicators within the diverse field of education. The School of Education’s mission is centered on improving teaching, learning, research, and leadership contributions throughout all levels of human development and education.

The School of Education understands that the rapidly changing field of education requires skilled teachers, leaders and administrators with respected, up-to-date credentials. The School of Education’s accredited online degree programs provide the valuable training necessary for employment and advancement in diverse areas, from K-12 and higher education to corporate training and non-profits.

School of Education - Accreditation

- Northcentral University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS).
- Northcentral University is recognized by the Council for Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education.
- Eight PK-12 specializations in Northcentral Universities Master of Education (M.Ed.) program have received five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).
School of Education - Academic Leadership

Cindy K. Guillaume, Ed.D.
Dean, School of Education

Dr. Cindy Guillaume is the dean of Northcentral University’s School of Education, which was created in 2004. Prior to being named Dean, Dr. Guillaume was the dean of the College of Education at Grand Canyon University (2008 to 2010). She has held senior level academic positions in the College of Education at University of Phoenix (2000 to 2008), and has worked in public and private school systems, primarily in special education.

Dr. Guillaume stepped away from higher education in 2011 to accept a role as vice president, special projects and prevention education for ChildHelp, Inc. At the charity, which exists to meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children, Dr. Guillaume was responsible for overall management and execution of prevention education initiatives.

In 2012, she returned to higher education, accepting the role of dean of the School of Education, at Northcentral University. In this position, Dr. Guillaume is responsible for oversight and direction of the School of Education, including ensuring that all academic objectives established by the Academic Affairs Committee, the Provost, the School of Education, and Northcentral University, are implemented appropriately.

Dr. Guillaume has been published in the *International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Learning* in addition to speaking at several conferences, including: Governor Brewer’s Child Safety Task Force (2011), the National Children’s Advocacy Center Annual Conference (2011), the Staff Development Council of Arizona’s 4th Annual Statewide Conference (2010), the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification’s Annual Conference (2009), the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business’s International New Deans Seminar (2009), the Teaching Online in Higher Education Conference (2002), the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Annual Conference (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008), and Arizona’s Department of Education No Child Left Behind Panel Discussion (2003).

Dr. Guillaume completed her Ed.D. at Nova Southeastern University in 2000. Her dissertation addressed *Inclusion Relationships: Collaboration in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Process*. She graduated from Arizona State University in 1992 with a Master of Special Education, and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education / Special Education in 1979. In addition, Dr. Guillaume holds an Administrative Certificate from University of Phoenix (1998). Dr. Guillaume maintains the following professional certifications, which are valid through 2016: Arizona Standard Special Education Certificate (approved areas include: emotional disability, learning disability and mental retardation), Arizona Principal Certificate, Arizona Supervisor, and Arizona Standard Elementary K-8 Teaching Certificate.

School of Education - Awards and Recognition

- Northcentral University’s Education school ranked #6 in faculty credentials and training by US News and World Report.
Northcentral University was asked to form the first virtual chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (an honor society in the field of education) in 2007.

School of Education - Programs Offered

- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)
- Post-baccalaureate Certificates
  - English Language Arts Excellence in the Common Core and Mathematics Excellence in the Common Core
- Master of Education (M.Ed.)
  - Specializations include: adult learning and workforce education, athletic coaching, curriculum and teaching, early childhood education, educational leadership, e-learning, English second language, general education, global training and development, leadership in higher education, instructional leadership, international education, organizational leadership, special education, sports management and corporate wellness
- Post Masters Certificates
  - Specializations include: curriculum and teaching, early childhood education, educational leadership, e-learning, English second language, general education, global training and development, instructional leadership, international education, leadership in higher education, organizational leadership, special education, and sports management
- Education Specialist (EdS)
  - Specializations include: curriculum and teaching, early childhood education, educational leadership, e-learning, English second language, general education, global training and development, instructional leadership, international education, leadership in higher education, organizational leadership, special education, and sports management
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
  - Specializations include: curriculum and teaching, early childhood education, educational leadership, e-learning, English second language, general education, global training and development, instructional leadership, international education, leadership in higher education, organizational leadership, special education, and sports management
- Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD)
  - Specializations include: curriculum and teaching, early childhood education, educational leadership, e-learning, English second language, global training and development, instructional leadership, international education, leadership in higher education, organizational leadership, special education, and sports management

School of Education - Key Dates

As of 6/14
2004 – The School of Education at Northcentral University is formed.

2007 – Northcentral University is asked to form the first virtual chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in the field of education.

2011 – US News and World Report ranked Northcentral University’s Education school #6 in faculty credentials and training.

2012 – Northcentral University received approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to offer a new degree program at the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) level.

2012 – Northcentral University and Rio Salado College receive approval from the Arizona State Board of Education to offer a 3+1 bachelor’s degree in education.

2012 – Northcentral University launches Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.).

2013 - Eight PK-12 specializations in the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program received five year initial accreditation through the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

2013 – The Master of Education with a Specialization in PK-12 Principal Leadership (M.Ed./PLCS), was approved by the Arizona Department of Education.