



Rural Centered
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A Monthly Newsletter from the
Colorado Center for Rural Education



Regis Online Master's Programs Perfect for Second Career Seekers

People who already have a bachelor's degree and want to start a career in teaching have a ready-made pathway with Regis University's [Division of Education's](#) 100% asynchronous online master's degree programs in education. They offer licensure in elementary education, secondary education, and special education. Regis also offers online and traditional face-to-face bachelor's degree programs in education.

We spoke with Jerry Goings about the university's master's degree programs. He is the Program Director Educational Leadership and the new department chair for the post-traditional graduate programs in the Division of Education. Formerly, he was a principal for 10 years in Colorado school districts.

Helping Those Who Want to Find a Purposeful Career

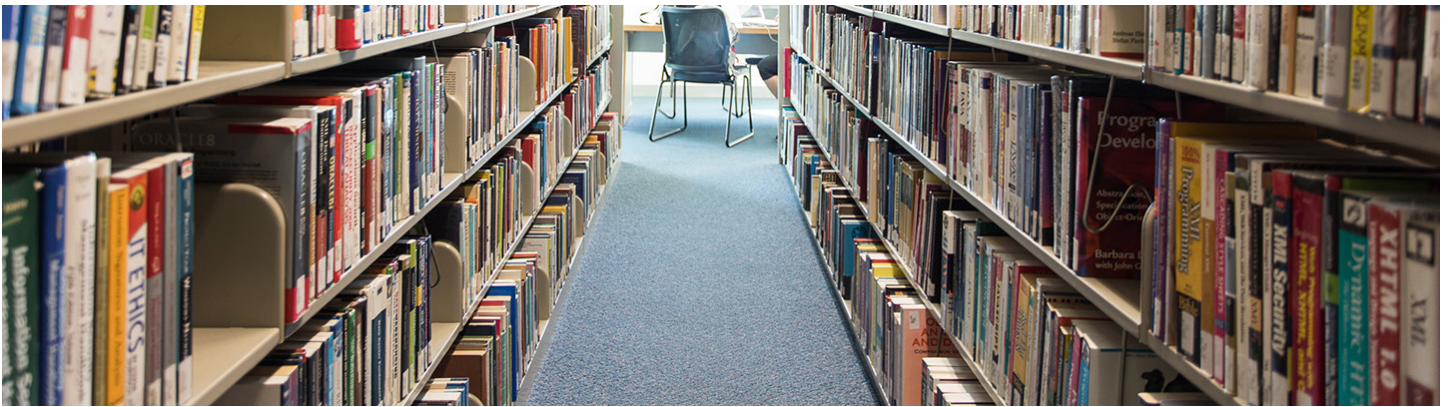
In terms of who enrolls in the Regis master's programs, "The focus is on adults trying to find a purpose in their lives and their career," said Goings. "They're looking for what we call a 'true vocation.'"

Some of those folks have worked in their field, such as business or science, for many years and aren't finding it as fulfilling or meaningful as they had hoped. They're looking for a way to contribute to society by way of a purposeful vocation and have honed in on teaching.

Others have found themselves in a position in a school as a paraprofessional or other school employee rather than working in their field. Their contact with the students has led them to develop an interest in becoming a teacher.

Still others are passionate about their content expertise but either haven't found a way to use it in their careers or aren't fulfilled in those positions. They've had some contact with kids—through a summer camp or as a coach—and it leads them to the idea of teaching.

“The Regis master’s programs are a good fit for those who have a degree and are passionate about making a difference in kids’ lives and our collective future,” Goings said. Another thing potential teacher candidates should keep in mind is that the master’s degree means they will have higher starting salaries in most school districts and are likely more competitive candidates for their dream teaching position.



Preparing Teachers to Contribute to the Community

“We’re a Jesuit university with strong values related to social justice and making an impact on our society,” said Goings. “We are dedicated to contributing to the common good of society and preparing teachers to ensure all kids are learning at a high level. The point is to build a teacher who is a ‘whole person’ and will turn around and make ‘whole people’ of their students.”

The university takes a practitioner approach to their degree programs—one that truly prepares teacher candidates for the classroom. Every professor and most adjunct faculty members have significant K–12 teaching experience.

Though they’re willing to be flexible with each student, the university encourages all students to take courses to prepare them to teach in inclusive classrooms and become CLD-endorsed. Goings said, “We want them to be able to provide support in multiple environments without having to go back and do additional work.”



Thinking Ahead for Colorado's Rural Schools

In terms of how graduates of Regis master's degree programs can contribute to filling the teacher gap in rural Colorado schools, there are a few points to keep in mind.

1. Administrators can keep this degree option in their recruiting toolbox when speaking with community members who already have a degree but are searching for a new, more fulfilling and meaningful career. Go through your list of paras to see who might be good candidates.
2. When vetting applicants, remember that graduates of concurrent master's degree and initial licensure programs are typically more mature and have more life experience than traditional candidates. They are likely to be more well-rounded and dedicated to teaching.
3. Graduates with a master's degree from Regis are likely to be CLD- and/or SPED-endorsed, which means you can slot them into many different positions.
4. Graduates with a master's degree from Regis are trained in the [Jesuit tradition](#), which could be an excellent fit for your rural community.

Upcoming Application Timelines

Rural Inservice Educator Stipend applications for fall 2024 accepted:
May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024

Colorado Rural Student Teaching Stipend applications for spring 2025 accepted:
July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024

Visit TEACH Colorado's **Financial Aid and Scholarship Information** page for information about additional scholarships.

For financial aid available to in-service and aspiring educators, download the **Colorado Department of Education's Educator Recruitment and District Supports flyer**.

Featured Partners

Learn more about our [featured partners](#) and how they are helping to solve the teacher shortage in rural Colorado.



[Marzano Research](#) offers sophisticated rural education research and consulting capabilities with a collaborative, small-business approach. Whether you want to grow your teacher pipeline, improve work-based learning pathways, or position your students for postsecondary success, we can help you develop and use actionable strategies leading to rural school success.

Robert Fulton, PhD | Director

