

EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

2010

France's first undergraduate programs in the educational sciences were offered in 1967 at the universities of Bordeaux, Caen, and Paris-Sorbonne. Others opened shortly thereafter, but, even today, not all of the nation's universities offer a licence in the field.

Academic training in education differs somewhat from training in other disciplines for two reasons:

- Education is a discipline made up of other disciplines. The study of educational systems and learning processes borrows concepts and methods from psychology and other human and social sciences.

- Education is a collection of pedagogical and institutional practices. Those practices are studied with a view to improving them.

Students who pursue a degree in education seek it for different reasons. Some are looking to acquire theoretical knowledge, learn teaching practices, and obtain a degree. For others, the goal is retraining or professional advancement.

Professional opportunities: teacher, adult educator, social worker, public servant, educational consultant, trainer, career counselor, social or cultural organizer.

ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES IN FRANCE

The education curriculum stretches from the licence (3 years) to the doctorate (8 years). In addition to education programs proper, licence programs in sociology, psychology, statistics, and the humanities and social sciences may allow students to specialize in education.

Courses in education are not offered until the third year of the licence program. The educational sciences all share the objective of increasing our understanding of the processes of teaching and learning. They reach that objective with the help of other disciplines. For that reason, licence programs in education encourage students to acquire a solid grounding in the social sciences, psychology, and the structure of knowledge. Programs are designed to permit students to choose their courses in accordance with their interests, such as teaching, adult education, training, or increasing social or organizational cohesion..

Students of education are advised to continue on for a master's degree (research or professional) so as to develop an academic or professional speciality. Primary-school teaching is one of the main job markets for master's graduates. **University teaching and research** require a doctorate.

RESEARCH THEMES

Advancing the science of education are hundreds of research faculty representing a wide range of professional specialities and theoretical orientations: educational philosophy, the psychology and sociology of education, family-based education, and didactic principles and techniques unique to specific disciplines.

French research in educational sciences is a cross-disciplinary effort centered on pedagogy, pedagogical development, and psychosociology—and, increasingly, on applications to education of information and communication technologies. Education and training systems are a high-priority area for educational research. Subtopics include discipline-specific teaching and the links in the chain running from basic education to professional education to continuing education and lifelong learning.

Other objects of research in the educational sciences are the quintessentially human activity of transmitting knowledge, optimal learning conditions for pupils, and the interaction of pupil, teacher, and knowledge.

► Useful Web sites

- AECSE (Association des Enseignants et Chercheurs en Sciences de l'Éducation, association of instructors and researchers in educational science), <http://www.aecse.net/>
- CIEP (Centre International d'Études Pédagogiques, international center for pedagogical research), <http://www.ciep.fr>
- CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training), <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/default.asp>
- CIDREE (Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe), <http://www.cidree.org>
- Training and resources in the educational sciences http://www.sciencedu.org/forseaccueil/Site_Forse/index.html
- NESSE (European Network of Experts in Social Sciences of Education and Training), <http://www.nesse.fr>
- Revue des Sciences de l'Éducation <http://www.erudit.org/revue/rse/2009/v35/n1/index.html>
- Center for Research in Education and Training, Université Paris X http://www.u-paris10.fr/82869263/0/fiche___pagelibre/&RH=edu_for&RF=REC
- ESCOL research group, Université Paris VIII, <http://educ.univ-paris8.fr/>
- INRP (Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique, national institute for pedagogical research), <http://www.inrp.fr>
- LIREST (Laboratoire Inter-universitaire de Recherche en Éducation Scientifique et Technologique, interuniversity laboratory for research in scientific and technological education), École Normale Supérieure de Cachan, <http://www.lirest.ens-cachan.fr/>

► Keywords

adults – arts – children – communication – continuing education – counselor – cultural activity – conflict resolution and mediation – dance – deafness – educator – education – educational sciences – facilitator – French as a foreign language – health – human and behavior sciences – humanities – human resources – ICTs for education – instructor – languages – law – literature – motor skills – multimedia – music – pedagogy – philosophy – physical education and athletics – practical training – primary/elementary school – professor – psychology – recreation and leisure – secondary school – skill development – social work – student support – teacher – teacher training and certification – teacher training institution – trainer – urban policy – vocational training – youth