



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Education

Quick Facts

- Public school teachers must be licensed, which typically requires a bachelor's degree and completion of an approved teacher education program.
- Private school teachers do not have to be licensed but still need a bachelor's degree.
- Obtaining a master's degree will increase your employability and your salary.
- Tutoring or other mentoring experience is very helpful to gain experience before mandatory student teaching. Internships or other experiences working with students help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

Education Major Synopsis

Education is the only pre-professional major at Southwestern, meaning the major coincides with a specific career field and prepares students for a certification process in teaching. Courses within the Education Department are designed to provide a philosophical and theoretical basis for teaching. Strong, early field experiences and a closely supervised student teaching placement are integral components of the program. Students seeking teacher certification major in Education with a Bachelor of Science degree. Students can also pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Education, but this degree plan does not lead to teacher certification.

The majority of courses students take will depend upon their specific area of concentration. Courses include Foundations and Curriculum of American Schools, Innovative Schools, Schools, Society and Diversity, Action Research in Education, Classroom Organization and Management, and Survey of Exceptionalities and Differentiated Instruction for Diverse Learners. Education majors also take supporting coursework in psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, religion, and/or philosophy.

In fall of the senior year for certifying teachers, placement in a field-based program will require students to return to Georgetown prior to the beginning of public school, which precedes the start of Southwestern University classes. The capstone experience for those seeking any kind of teacher certification consists of successful completion of the student teaching requirements. Secondary teachers must also complete capstones in their respective majors.

Completion of a degree with teacher certification may require an extra semester of work. Admission to the University and admission to the Teacher Certification Program are two separate entities.

Sample Occupational Areas

K-12 EDUCATION

There are about 97,568 public schools and 32,461 private schools in the United States. Schools are shifting towards bigger middle schools, handling students from 5th through 8th grade. Another trend is growing class sizes. There are a lot of opportunities for job seekers in K-12 education, but some urban and rural schools and fields such as math, science, bilingual education, and special education have the most need. Public school teachers usually earn more than private-school teachers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

There are approximately 443,700 special education teachers in the US. Employment of special education teachers is expected to increase as many districts report problems finding adequate numbers of certified special education teachers. Special education teachers enjoy the challenge of working with students with disabilities and the opportunity to establish meaningful relationships with them. Although helping these students can be highly rewarding, the work also can be emotionally and physically draining. The working conditions also vary. Some have their own classrooms and teach only special education students; others work as special education resource teachers and offer individualized help to students in general education classrooms; still others teach together with general education teachers in classes including both general and special education students.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education includes community colleges, large universities known for their research programs, and everything in between, public and private. As with K-12 schools, the public schools do a major share of the hiring. Higher education has positions that are rarely found in the K-12 system: alumni fundraiser, financial-aid officer, admissions officer, etc. Higher education is the place to look if you are interested in doing research and publishing in your field while you are teaching.

EDUCATION-ORIENTED BUSINESSES OR NON-PROFITS

These businesses teach subjects that fall outside the scope of traditional schools. Foreign-language schools, computer, international education volunteer groups, education advocate groups, self-help, and other educational companies all fit into this category. Such organizations prefer experienced hires, though many will train new hires or expect them to learn on the job. Some college grads take these jobs to get a taste of teaching and move on to more traditional schools after getting a master's degree. Others make a career out of this type of teaching. Downsides for job seekers include low pay, little job security, and few chances for advancement.

Sample Job Titles

Admissions Counselor	Daycare Administrator	K-12 Teacher	Private Tutor
Adult Educator	Educational Administrator	Librarian	Researcher
Continuing Education Planner	Guidance Counselor	Principal	Special Education Teacher

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

The American University - Washington, DC	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Annie Purl Elementary - Georgetown, TX	The Kids Cookery School - London, UK
Assoc. for Childhood Ed. Intl - Olney, MD	Literacy Council of Williamson County - Georgetown, TX
Austin Resource Center for Independent Living - Austin, TX	Lutherhill Ministries - La Grange, TX
Boys & Girls Club - Georgetown, TX	Manhattan Theatre Club - New York City, NY
Brooklyn Museum of Art - Brooklyn, NY	Meridian School - Round Rock, TX
Brookwood - Georgetown, TX	Presidential Classroom - Alexandria, VA
Camp Balcones Springs - Marble Falls, TX	Smithsonian Institution - Washington, DC
Champion Services - Southlake, TX	Southwestern University Football Program - Georgetown, TX
The Child Support Division - Texas	Surescore - Austin, TX
Children's Museum of Indianapolis - Indiana	Texas Capitol - Austin, TX
Georgetown High School - Georgetown, TX	Texas Museum of Science and Technology - Cedar Park, TX
Georgetown ISD - Georgetown, TX	Texas State University Teacher Fellow - San Marcos, TX
Georgetown Young Life - Georgetown, TX	Virtual Education, Inc. - Longwood, FL
J. Frank Dobie Middle School - Austin, TX	Wells Branch Community Library - Austin, TX

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

Coordinator (YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee)	Peace Corps
Director of Children's Ministries (First United Methodist Church)	Playworks Coach (Playworks)
Facilitated Communication Teacher (Round Rock ISD)	Pre-Kindergarten Teacher (Early Childhood Center)
Head Women's Volleyball and Basketball Coach (Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf)	Special Education Inclusion Teacher (Lutherhill Ministries)
K-12 Teacher (Various public school districts)	Special Education Teacher (Various public school districts)
K-12 Teacher (Various charter/private schools)	Teen Director (Boys and Girls Club)
	Therapist (Center for Autism)

Professional Associations

American Association of School Administrators	Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education
American Council on Education	National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers	National Parent Teacher Association