Major Possibilities:
Education

Career Services

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Here to help you get ahead.

Summary

- 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.
- The Operation Achievement program is a mentorship program which assists selected 6th through 8th grade students in the Georgetown ISD to develop the discipline and motivation necessary for academic success. This would be a good way to gain hands-on experience working with middle-school aged children before the mandatory semester of student teaching in your senior year. Tutoring or other mentoring experience is also very helpful.

Education major synopsis

Education is one of the few pre-professional majors 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 elementary/middle school certification major in Education with a Bachelor of Science degree and choose either Elementary (early childhood [EC] –grade 6) or Middle School (grade 4-grade 8) level teacher certification. Students seeking secondary or all-level certification typically major in the field they plan to teach (since federal law requires they must earn at least 24 credit hours of study in that subject field), plus take additional educational pedagogy classes. 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, Schools, Society and Diversity, Action Research in Education, Classroom Organization and Management, 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. Qualifications for the Teacher Certification Program are as follows: a grade point average of 2.75 or above on a minimum of 60 semester hours of work completed; a grade of at least "B" in a writing-intensive course; satisfactory scores on the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) tests or approved exemption; proof of professional insurance for student teachers through membership in a statewide teacher organization; completion of an interactive, sustained intercultural experience, including no fewer than 20 contact hours in a self-selected and approved setting; successful completion of an interview with the Education Department faculty. After receiving the degree, completing the certification program, and achieving satisfactory scores on the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES).

Sample occupational areas

K-12 Education
There are about 98,817 public schools and 35,620 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.

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.

Special Education
There are approximately 442,800 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.

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

Sample internship employers of SU students

The American University – Washington, DC
Assoc. for Childhood Ed. Intl – Olney, MD
Austin Resource Center for Independent Living – Austin, TX
Brooklyn Museum of Art – Brooklyn, NY
The Child Support Division – Texas
Children's Museum of Indianapolis – Indiana
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Manhattan Theatre Club – New York City, NY
Presidential Classroom – Alexandria, VA
Smithsonian Institution – Washington, DC
Sure Score – Austin, TX
Virtual Education, Inc. – Longwood , FL

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

K-12 Teacher (Various public school districts)
K-12 Teacher (Various charter/private schools)
Playworks Coach (Playworks)
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher (Early Childhood Center) Site Coordinator (YMCA of Metropolitan Milwakee)
Therapist (Center for Autism)

Professional associations

American Association of School Administrators: www.aasa.org
American Council on Education: www.acenet.edu
American Federation of Teachers: www.aft.org
Kappa Delta Pi – International Honor Society in Education: www.kdp.org
National Education Association: www.nea.org
National Congress of Parents and Teachers (PTA): www.pta.org

Additional Web resources

Career Field Information
Educator's Reference Desk: http://www.refdesk.com/educate.html
Discovery Channel - Education: school.discoveryeducation.com
US Department of Education: www.ed.gov
Online Education Database: http://oedb.org/fast-track-careers-education

Job Search Information
Education Recruitment Service: www.teachers-teachers.com
School Spring – Employment Source for Educators: www.schoolspring.com
Teaching Jobs Available in the U.S.: www.teacherjobs.com
Teach for America: www.teachforamerica.org
Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov/
Council on International Educational Exchange: http://ciee.org/teach

Career Services' print resources

101 Career Alternatives for Teachers
Career Opportunities in Education and Related Services
Careers in Education
Careers for Caring People & Other Sensitive Types
Developing a Teaching Portfolio
How to Get the Teaching Job You Want
Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job
Insider's Guide to the Peace Corps
Opportunities in Teaching Careers
Opportunities Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Teaching English Abroad
Teaching English Overseas: A Job Guide for Americans and Canadians
Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange and Development