

Major Possibilities: Education



Career Services

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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 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.

The majority of courses students take will depend upon their specific area of concentration. However, there are some courses which all Education majors must take. These courses include the following education courses: "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". There are also three psychology courses which Education majors must take: "Principles of Psychology", "Developmental Psychology" and "Educational Psychology".

In fall of the senior year, 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 2.5 or above on a minimum of 60 semester hours of work completed; a grade of at least "C-" in an English composition 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.

Sample occupational areas

K-12 Education

There are about **97,382 public schools** and **34, 681 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 typically 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 **459,000** special education teachers in the US. Employment of special education teachers is expected to increase faster than average 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

These businesses teach subjects that fall outside the scope of traditional schools. **Foreign-language** schools, **computer**, **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
Principal
Private Tutor

Sample internship employers of SU students

Academic Advancement of Youth
The American University – Washington, DC
Assoc. for Childhood Ed. Intl – Olney, MD
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
Pace University – New York City, NY
Presidential Classroom – Alexandria, VA
Smithsonian Institution – Washington, DC
Virtual Education, Inc. – Longwood, FL

Sample full-time employers of SU grads

1st – 5th Grade Teachers
8th Grade Teacher
2nd & 3rd Grade Bilingual Teacher
ICAP Teacher (Vista Ridge HS)
Kindergarten Teacher
Middle School Teacher
Pre-K Teacher

Reading Teacher
Resource Teacher
Special Education Teacher
Site Coordinator (YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee)
Substitute Teacher
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: www.eduref.org
Discovery Channel - Education: school.discoveryeducation.com
FREE - Federal Resources for Educational Excellence: free.ed.gov
US Department of Education: www.ed.gov

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

Career Services' print resources

101 Career Alternatives for Teachers
Career Opportunities in Education and Related Services
Careers in Education
Developing a Teaching Portfolio
Directory of Public Schools in the United States
How to Get the Teaching Job You Want

Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job
National Directory for Employment in Education
Opportunities in Teaching Careers
Region 16 Ed. Service Center Personnel Services