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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admissions Counselor</th>
<th>Daycare Administrator</th>
<th>K-12 Teacher</th>
<th>Private Tutor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Educator</td>
<td>Educational Administrator</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education Planner</td>
<td>Guidance Counselor</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Special Education Teacher</td>
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Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

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

Sample Full-Time Employers of SU Grads

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

Professional Associations

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