

EDUCATION

<http://cehd.gmu.edu/>

Think You Want to be a Teacher?

Undergraduate degrees with teacher licensure are available in several program areas: Mathematics, English, biology, chemistry, physics, Earth science, dance, music, and physical education. It's critical that students interested in these options contact an education academic advisor as soon as possible. Undergraduate students who are interested in earning teaching licenses in *other* subjects and grade levels are also encouraged to speak with an academic advisor in education as well since there are important requirements for graduate teacher licensure programs that undergraduate students must fulfill prior to earning a bachelor's degree.

The **Graduate** School of Education (GSE) offers graduate **M.Ed. programs** for teacher licensure in: Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, Early Childhood Education, English as a Second Language, and Foreign Language. Undergraduates interested in future graduate study are encouraged to see Eva Nolen, the Undergraduate Education Advisor regarding teacher licensure programs. Detailed information for teacher licensure can be obtained at the website above or by scheduling an appointment with Eva Nolen by emailing her at enolen2@gmu.edu.

GSE also offers graduate programs in Counseling and Development, Instructional Technology, Multilingual and Multicultural Education, Education Leadership, Adult Education, Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning, and a Masters in New Professional Studies.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this profession?

Individuals interested in becoming a teacher in either the public or private setting should possess mastery of content, knowledge of teaching strategies, and the ability to meet students' individual needs for academic and personal support. Teachers have qualities of patience, understanding, strong work ethic, management, and intelligence. Additionally, a strong sense of commitment to children and community is imperative. It is essential for teachers to utilize the team involvement in each child's education. This team consists of the child, family, teacher, principal, and other support personnel within the education community.

What degree do I need in order to enter the Graduate School of Education at GMU?

A bachelor's degree in a content area one wants to teach (such as English, math, biology, or a foreign language) is strongly suggested. Hiring school divisions want their teachers to have a solid foundation in a subject area. Earning a degree in Integrative Studies, psychology, sociology, or communication are also strong options for students interested in earning teaching licenses for elementary school, special education, early childhood education, and other areas that include instruction in a variety of subjects.

Are there any undergraduate minors available?

Five undergraduate minors are available in education: 1) Education Studies, 2) Early Childhood, 3) Mild Disabilities, 4) Severe Disabilities, and 5) Assistive Technology. Students are strongly encouraged to compliment their major with an education minor. These minors help students learn

EXPLORING MAJORS

more about the field of education and, in the case of the Special Education minors, fulfill 50% of the graduate licensure requirements.

What are recent graduates doing?

Most graduates seek positions as full time teachers in their area of licensure in either a public or private school. Because of periodic teacher shortages in math, science, and Special Education, some of our students are hired provisionally before they are able to complete their graduate licensure program. There is also a great demand for male teachers at the elementary level and minority teachers at all levels.

Teachers often broaden their interests and become licensed as school counselors or administrators. Additional graduate level coursework would be required to seek licensure as either a school counselor or principal or administrator. Coupling teaching skills with instructional technology invites multiple opportunities in education. Alternative careers paths are available in: writing for educational publishing firms, selling instructional materials and textbooks, working as an instructor in a business or industrial setting, providing information services within business, providing corporate training and development, private tutoring, working for recreational facilities as museum guides or arts/crafts instructors, working in some aspect of education TV or publishing, or operating day-care centers.

What kinds of practical experience are recommended to explore the field of education further?

Take EDUC 300 to learn about the world of teaching. This course is not a requirement for any of the licensure programs and will not count for any coursework in the graduate program, but is helpful as an introductory course and is the prerequisite for the Education Studies minor.

Obtain experience as a volunteer in a school setting.

Seek employment as an substitute teacher or instructional aid to gain classroom experience.

Participate as a youth volunteer in a church or community activity.

Gain experience with children as a coach.

Work as a camp counselor.

Career Library Resources – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/educ.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I.

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites) – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/educ.htm>

Who should students contact for further information?

Eva Nolen
Undergraduate Education Advisor
West Building, Room 2100
enolen2@gmu.edu
703-993-2078

Academic Advising Center
SUB I Room 304
703-993-2470

Virginia Wheeler
Career Services
348 SUB I
703-993-2370