What Can I Do With A Major In…

Education

Compiled by the staff at the SUNY Oneonta Career Development Center

Introduction

- Education majors can use their skills in a variety of positions. The most common is that of a teacher. Teacher Certification is required for school teachers in all 50 states. A general description of teacher work activities includes: planning courses, instructing students, evaluating student performance, supervising student activities, performing administrative duties, advising students, interacting with students and employers and keeping up with developments in the field. Teaching can be a very rewarding career. It is one career in which a person can have a direct effect on the life of someone else.

Functional Skill Set for Education Majors

- Guiding activities of others, with responsibility for the results.
- Teaching knowledge and skills, motivating for peak performance.
- Dealing effectively with individuals and groups.
- Planning and organizing courses of study and activities such as trips, parties, and performances.
- Delegating responsibility to members of a work team and encouraging cooperation with the team.
- Maintaining order, resolving differences, anticipating and preventing trouble.
- Gathering information on a subject, organizing and presenting it in a matter that holds attention.
- Adapting the presentation of information to different audiences and age levels.
- Selecting and effectively using audio-visual and other educational materials.
- Assessing the progress of individuals and the success of programs.
- Ability to develop ideas, persuade and negotiate.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Capacity to analyze, interpret and evaluate information.
- Design and implement appropriate curricula/programs.
- In-depth knowledge of subject.
- Nurturing potential growth and development of people.
- Plan and coordinate work with others.
- Presentation skills.
• Develop excellent communication skills, verbal and written.
• Demonstrate enthusiasm and energy for the field.
• Desire to work with and help people.
• Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience with the age group you intend to work with in various settings: pre-schools, daycares, camps, community agencies, adult center, YMCA’s, etc.
• Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills and interest.
• Decide on level of teaching a specific area of interest.
• Bachelor’s degree is sufficient for certification/licensure to teach K-12 in most states. Obtain a master’s degree for advancement and increasing earning potential. Advanced degree required for specialist, education administration, college teaching and other professional positions.
• Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to alternative careers: effective communication with people, verbal and written; teaching and instruction; program planning; organization and record-keeping; working under pressure and meeting deadlines; motivational skills, creativity; working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving; research skills.
• Develop good computer skills.

**Related Career Titles for Education Majors**

• Adapted Physical Education Teacher
• Admissions Counselor
• Adult Educator
• Advertising Account Executive
• Advertising Director
• Athletic Coach/Director
• Audio-Visual Specialist
• Autism Center Manager/Teacher
• Biographer-Child Life Specialist
• Camp Director
• Child Psychologist
• Consultant
• Consumer Advocate
• Continuing Education Program Planner
• Convention Organizer
• Corporate Trainer
• Counselor/Guidance Counselor
• Creative Arts Therapist
• Critic
• Day Care Center Owner/Operator
• Editor-Educational Resource Coordinator
• Educational Advocate
• Employee Development Specialist
• Employment Interviewer
• Fundraiser
• Govt. Agency Administrator
• Human Resources Administrator
• Journalist
• Language/Audiologist
• Librarian
• Lobbyist
• Market Researcher
• Media Buyer
• Non-Profit Administration
• Occupational Therapist
• Orientation & Mobility Specialist
• Peace Corps/Vista Worker
• Personnel Recruiter
• Physical Therapist
• Pre-school Administration
• Private Tutor
• Professor College/University
• Public Information Officer
• Public Lecturer
• Public Relations Specialist
• Radio/Television Newscaster
• Recreational Therapist
• Registrar/Admissions Director
• Rehabilitation Counselor
• Research Assistant
• Researcher
• Sales Representative
• School Principal
• School Psychologist
• Screen/Script Writer
• Social Worker
• Special Education Teacher
• Speech Consultant
• Speech Pathologist
• Station Programmer
• Student Teacher Advisor
• Teacher
• Teacher of English as a Second Language
• Teacher of the Hearing Impaired
• Teacher-Adult Education
• Technical Writer
• Tour Guide
• Tutor
Some Organizations that Typically Employ Education Majors:

- Business & Industry
- Camps
- Churches
- Colleges & Universities
- Community Centers
- Educational Publishers
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Prisons
- Public & Private Schools
- State & Federal Govt.
- Youth Services

Start a Strategic Plan

- Gain experience through volunteer work or Internships.
- Develop writing and public speaking skills.
- Learn to work with people of different ages and backgrounds.
- Plan to obtain Masters Degree.
- Add additional coursework in area of interest such as human services, counseling or psychology.
- Consider certification in special education for greater employability.
- Develop excellent communication, verbal and written skills.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and energy for the failed.
- A Desire to work with & help people.
- Obtain part-time summer, internship, or volunteer experience with the age groups you intend to work with in various settings: pre-schools, daycares, camps, community agencies, adult center, YMCA’s, etc.
- Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills and interest.
- Decide on level of teaching a specific area of interest.
- Bachelor’s degree is sufficient for certification/licensure to teach k-12 in most States.
- Obtain a Master’s degree for advancement and increased earning potential.
- Advanced degree required for specialist, education administration, college teaching and other professional positions.
- Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to alternative careers: effective communication with people, verbal and written, teaching and instruction, program planning, organization and record-keeping, working under pressure and meeting deadlines, motivational skills, creativity, working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving, research skills.
• Develop good computer skills.

**Professional Organizations and Associations for Education Majors**

American College Personnel Association  
[http://www.acpa.nche.edu](http://www.acpa.nche.edu)

American Federation of Teachers  
[http://www.aft.org/index.htm](http://www.aft.org/index.htm)

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
[http://www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org)

National Education Association  

North Carolina Association of Educators-resources, news and search engines  
[http://www.ncae.org](http://www.ncae.org)

Resources of Education Societies  

Sylvan Learning Centers  
[http://www.sylvanlearning.com](http://www.sylvanlearning.com)

US Department of Education  

Association for Childhood Education International  
17904 Georgia Ave. Suite 215  
Olney MD  20832-2277  
[http://www.udel.edu/bateman/acei](http://www.udel.edu/bateman/acei)

National Association of Child Care Professionals  
207 W. Main St # 1  
Christiansburg VA  24073-2960  
[http://www.naccp.org](http://www.naccp.org)

National Association for the Education of Young Children  
1509 16th St. NW  
Washington DC  20036-1426  
[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

American Association of School Administrators  
1801 North Moore Street  
Arlington VA  22209  
[www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org)

American Society for Training & Development  
1640 King Street Box 1443
## EDUCATION
### What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>K-12</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Elementary, middle and secondary schools: public, private, Montessori, etc.</td>
<td>Complete a college level teacher preparation program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day care centers and nursery schools</td>
<td>Obtain teaching certificate/license for desired subject area and/or grade level. Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boards of education</td>
<td>Obtain multiple certifications to increase employability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>Private schools may not require certification or licensure. Obtain master's degree in subject area for increased employability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Get involved in student teacher organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acquire teaching experience. Obtain Ph.D. and certificate in school administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate study required for &quot;special service&quot; fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✈</td>
<td></td>
<td>Obtain master's degree in area to become specialist. Requirements for certification and/or accreditation vary by state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✈</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✈</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGHER EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Four-year colleges and universities</td>
<td>Earn Ph.D. to teach and research at four-year institutions. Master's or Ph.D. degree is required to teach at two-year schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Two-year and community colleges</td>
<td>Earn a Ph.D. in higher education administration for upper level positions in university administration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Technical schools</td>
<td>Earn master's degree in student personnel, student development, or counseling for student affairs positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>Medical and professional schools</td>
<td>Obtain master's degree in library/information sciences. Gain related experience through student positions such as Resident Assistants, Orientation Leaders, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information/Library Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seek leadership roles in campus organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREAS</td>
<td>EMPLOYERS</td>
<td>STRATEGIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>K-12 school systems</td>
<td>Attain a master's or Ph.D. degree in adult education or a graduate degree in a subject or specialized area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inservice Education</td>
<td>Boards of education</td>
<td>Gain a reputation of expertise and experience in a subject, profession, art, craft or trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Obtain teaching or instructional experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>Two-year and technical schools</td>
<td>Determine certification or accreditation standards for areas of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure-oriented Education</td>
<td>Community organizations: YMCA, Red Cross, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GED Preparation</td>
<td>Correctional institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Development</td>
<td>Museums</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as a Second Language</td>
<td>Professional associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td>Nursing homes/Adult daycare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vocational services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY** | Public and private corporations | Take some general business and computer courses. |
| Corporate Training | Consulting firms | Earn a graduate degree in human resource development. |
| Human Resources | Marketing companies | Gain experience in organizational development or marketing. |
| Sales | Bookstores | Become current with business and industry literature and news. |
| Customer Service | Publishers: Textbook, newspaper, magazine, book | Develop strong word processing, editing, and desktop publishing skills. |
| Publishing, Editing, and Technical Writing | Test-preparation companies | |
| Curriculum Development | Software companies | |
| Consulting | Staffing agencies | |

| **GOVERNMENT** | Federal government agencies: Department of Education | Learn federal, state, and local job application procedures. |
| Administration | Department of Defense | Gain experience and an advanced, typically Ph.D, degree for high level positions in government. |
| Planning | Overseas schools for military dependents | |
| Evaluation | Department of Labor | |
| Management | Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) | |
| Research and Writing | Health and Human Services | |
| Teaching | Library of Congress | |
| Social Work | National Archives and Records Administration | |
| | National Science Foundation | |
| | National Endowment for the Arts | |
| | National Endowment for the Humanities | |
| | Peace Corps | |
| | Americorps | |
| | Social service agencies | |
| | State and local government | |
### AREAS

**NONPROFIT**
- Teaching or Training
- Programming
- Public Relations
- Administration
- Fundraising
- Case Managing
- Lobbying

### EMPLOYERS

- Adoption agencies
- Scouts
- Camps
- United Way agencies
- YMCA/YWCA
- Group homes
- Mental health clinics
- Hospitals
- Community recreation centers
- Other public or private social service organizations
- State/national professional associations

### STRATEGIES

- Gain experience through volunteer work or internships.
- Develop writing and public speaking skills.
- Learn to work well with people of various backgrounds.
- Add additional coursework in area of interest such as human services, counseling or psychology.
- Consider certification in special education for greater employability.
- Seek grant writing experience to increase opportunities.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Develop excellent communication skills, verbal and written.
- Develop good computer skills.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and energy for the field.
- Need desire to work with and help people.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience with the age group you intend to work with in various settings: pre-schools, daycares, camps, community agencies, adult centers, YMCA's, etc.
- Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills, interests, and opportunities.
- Bachelor's degree is sufficient for certification/licensure to teach K-12 in most states. Obtain a master's degree for advancement and increased earning potential. Advanced degree required for specialists, education administration, college teaching and other professional positions.
- Maintain current knowledge of state and national legislation regarding teacher licensure.
- Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to alternative careers:
  - Effective communication with people, verbal and written
  - Teaching and instruction
  - Program planning
  - Organization and record-keeping
  - Working under pressure and meeting deadlines
  - Motivational skills, creativity
  - Working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving
  - Research skills