



What can I do with a major in... **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

The Early Childhood Education major is designed to prepare students to teach in early childhood (birth through grade 3) classrooms in private and public schools. As an education major, you'll be mentored by professors who will guide and encourage you during your journey toward a degree and teacher licensure, and a classroom of your own! We have a wide range of P-12 school partnerships that will give you extensive interaction with current teachers in real classrooms as early as your sophomore year. You'll observe and assist in classrooms before you become a student teacher your senior year.

What types of work are related to this degree?

Teaching in your area of specialty
Private tutoring
Creating/directing educational programs
Curriculum development
Instructional design (technology training may be required)
Textbook editing
Online education
Student life/student affairs
Corporate or business training and development

Who employs people with this degree?

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Centers and Headstart Programs
Schools of all kinds-public, private, charter, international, government, residential (Kindergarten—Grade 3)
Daycares, nursery schools, preschools
Parks and Recreation departments
Educational testing companies
Curriculum/educational publishers
School district offices
Educational research firms
Universities and colleges
Employee training programs
Youth camps and youth programs
Social service agencies, homeless shelters, and adoption agencies
Children's bookstores

More information online at ONETonline.org

Strategies for Success:

- Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state; multiple certifications will increase employability. A master's degree will increase earning potential.
- Be willing to work hard at finding a job and to go where the jobs are.
- 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.
- Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to other careers: written and verbal communication, teaching and instruction, program planning, organization and record keeping, working under pressure and meeting deadlines, motivational skills, creativity, working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving.
- Assume leadership roles and actively engage in activities to develop leadership skills in your field.

Professional Associations:

American Educational Research Association
American Federation of Teachers
Association for Experiential Education
National Education Association
US Department of Education (listing of associations)
Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MNAEYC)
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Division of Early Childhood (DEC)
National Head Start Association (NHSA)

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with the Career Development or check out our online resources on our website or on theROCK, Career Development tab.