Develop excellent communication skills, verbal and written. Become skilled in various teaching strategies and technologies. Demonstrate enthusiasm and energy for the field, particularly the desire to work with and help others. Obtain part-time, summer, internship or volunteer experience with the intended age group in various settings (e.g., pre-schools, day cares, camps, community agencies, adult centers, YMCA's). Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills, interests and networking opportunities.

Bachelor's degree is sufficient for certification to teach K–12 in most states. Obtain a master’s degree for advancement and to increase earning potential. Advanced degrees are required for specialists, education administration, college teaching and some other professional positions.

Maintain current knowledge of state and national legislation regarding teacher certification. Identify transferrable skills learned in teaching applicable to alternative careers. Verbal and written communication, teaching and instruction, program planning, organization and record-keeping, working under pressure, meeting deadlines, motivating others, creativity, working autonomously, decision-making, problem-solving and research.

### AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY
- Elementary school
- Day care centers
- Nursery schools
- Board of education
- Tutoring and learning centers
- Test preparation companies
- Overseas schools for military dependents
- Authors
- Publishers: textbook, online, newspaper, magazine, book, educational websites
- Test-preparation companies
- Software companies
- Education-related businesses: toy retailers, educational supply companies
- Public and private corporations

### COMMON EMPLOYERS
- American Association of School Administrators
- American College Personnel Association
- American Educational Research Association
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Library Association
- American School Counselor Association
- Association for Career and Technical Education
- Association of American Educators
- Association of Teacher Educators
- Council for Exceptional Children
- International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language
- NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Education Association
- Phi Delta Kappa International

### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD
- Obtain experience working with target age group through volunteer or part-time positions.
- Demonstrate patience, creativity and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds.
- Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with students, staff and parents.
- Complete a college level teacher preparation program to obtain certification for desired subject area or grade level. Requirements vary by state.
- Private schools may not require certification.
- Pursue additional degrees to increase employability.
- Earn master's degree for higher pay and for a hiring edge in some districts.
- Join related organizations such as National Education Association, International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, etc., to learn about current issues in the field.
- Research school graduation programs and certification requirements for principal positions.
- Graduate study is required for "special service" fields. Obtain master's degree in area to become a specialist.

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