

# Career

# Paths

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Education major focuses on how people learn and find new ways of effective and inclusive teaching. Course topics allow you to explore psychological & developmental needs, health & safety, Information & literacy, and learning to plan & implement curriculum for various ages and special populations.

### K-12

**Example Career Paths:** Teaching | Administration | Specializations | Tutoring services

**Potential Employers:** Elementary, middle and secondary schools | Day care centers | Nursery schools | Boards of education | Tutoring and learning centers | Test preparation companies | Overseas schools for military dependents | Language immersion programs

**Professional Associations:** [American Association for Employment in Education](#) | [American Association of School Administrators](#) | [American Federation of Teachers](#) | [American School Counselor Association](#) | [Association for Career and Technical Education](#) | [Association of American Educators](#) | [Association of Teacher Educators](#) | [International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language](#) | [National Association of School Psychologists](#)

### Higher Education

**Example Career Paths:** Administration and Student Support Services | Student Affairs (e.g., residence life, student activities, orientation, leadership, greek life, diversity, equity, & inclusion, recreational sports, career services) | Teaching | Research | Information/Library services

**Potential Employers:** Four-year colleges and universities | Two-year and community colleges | Technical schools | Medical and professional schools

**Professional Associations:** [American College Personnel Association](#) | [NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education](#)

## Adult and Continuing Education

**Example Career Paths:** In-service education | Staff development | Professional development | Leisure-oriented education | Career/Technical education | GED preparation | Literacy development | English language acquisition

**Potential Employers:** Boards of education | Colleges and universities | Two-year and technical schools | Community organizations (e.g., YMCA, Red Cross) | Museums | Professional associations | Residential care facilities | Adult day healthcare centers | Vocational services | K-12 school systems | Language schools: overseas and domestic | Correctional institutions

**Professional Associations:** [American Association for Adult and Continuing Education](#) | [Association for Continuing Higher Education](#)

## Business and Communication

**Example Career Paths:** Training | Curriculum development | Publishing, editing, and technical writing | Sales | Customer service | Management

**Potential Employers:** Bookstores | 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 | Self-employed (e.g., tutoring services, consulting, etc.)

**Professional Associations:** [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development](#)

## Government

**Example Career Paths:** Administration | Planning | Evaluation | Management | Research and writing | Teaching | Community affairs

**Potential Employers:** Federal government agencies | Social service agencies | State and local government

**Professional Associations:** [National Association of State Boards of Education](#) | [National School Boards Association](#)

## Nonprofit

**Example Career Paths:** Direct service | Programming | Administration | Management | Public relations | Fund raising/Development | Policy analysis | Research | Grant writing | Curator/Archivist

**Potential Employers:** Service organizations (e.g., United Way, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army) | Youth organizations and camps (e.g., YMCA, YWCA, Young Life, Scouts) | Community recreation centers | Immigrant and refugee service providers | Shelters | Hospitals and hospices | Residential treatment facilities | Adult day health care centers | Nursing homes | Adoption agencies | Churches, synagogues, and mosques | Correctional institutions | Museums

**Professional Associations:** [American Educational Research Association](#) | [American Library Association](#) | [Council for Exceptional Children](#) | [National Education Association](#) | [Phi Delta Kappa International](#)

## Preparing for your Career

- Obtain experience working with your 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 communication 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 multiple certifications to increase employability.
- Earn a 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 administration graduate programs and certification requirements for principal positions.
- Graduate study is required for "special service" fields. Obtain a master's degree in an area to become a specialist.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

**WCIDWMM**

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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