# What Can I Do with a Major in Education

## How to use this guide
DePaul’s Career Roadmap was designed to help students and alumni navigate the career development process by describing the Career Center’s services and resources as they relate to four steps: Know Yourself, Explore and Choose Options, Gain Knowledge and Experience, and Putting it all Together. This major guide uses the same four steps to help you explore and consider the possibility of pursuing a degree in Education:

**Step 1** *Know Yourself:* Helps you explore whether this field suits your interests, skills, and values.

**Step 2** *Explore and Choose Options:* Provides you with information about the major and occupations related to it.

**Step 3** *Gain Knowledge and Experience:* Teaches you how to gain relevant knowledge and experience for your occupational interest.

**Step 4** *Putting It All Together:* Helps you embark on your job search process.

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</table>
**Step 1: Know Yourself**

Think about what has attracted you to Education and why it might be the right major for you. Take some time to consider your interests, skills, and values, and compare them with the information below. Keep in mind that you may not identify with everything noted below, but be conscious of whether the listed interests, skills, and values complement or run contrary to how you identify.

**Interests, Skills and Values:**
People who major in Education often have:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interests</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Working in teams</td>
<td>• Verbal ability</td>
<td>• Interpersonal relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Helping others</td>
<td>• Active listening</td>
<td>• Teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community service projects, Education</td>
<td>• Empathic listening</td>
<td>• Helping people meet their full potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Giving advice</td>
<td>• Motivating others</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Religion and spirituality</td>
<td>• Perceptiveness of others</td>
<td>• Generosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Caring for People</td>
<td>• Leadership</td>
<td>• Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social sciences</td>
<td>• Conveying information</td>
<td>• Knowledge/learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training</td>
<td>• Counseling</td>
<td>• Sense of community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Human services</td>
<td>• Developing others’ knowledge and skills</td>
<td>• Moral fulfillment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Counseling</td>
<td>• Instructing</td>
<td>• Service orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Working with children/students Teaching</td>
<td>• Providing feedback</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide hospitality</td>
<td>• Collaboration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Solving problems through</td>
<td>• Working with a group/team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discussion Motivate others</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If what is listed above matches, or is related in a way to your own interests, skills and values, a degree in Education may be for you. Continue to explore this resource to learn more.

**Another Look at Interests:**

**John Holland’s Occupational Themes**
Learning about your interests will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to. John Holland developed a theory of occupational interests that described six major interest areas (learn about all six interest areas [here](#)). Of those six interest areas, Education students often identify with interests in the following categories:

*Social*- interested in professions that involve helping, training, or teaching abilities and enjoy working with other people in service-oriented environments.

*Artistic*- interested in professions involving artistic, innovative, or intuitive abilities and like to work in unstructured creative and flexible environments.

*Realistic*- interested in professions involving working outside, working with things, materials, plants or using your eye for detail.
Learn more about “Step 1: Knowing Yourself”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
- Skills and Accomplishments
- Strong Interest Explorer
- Work Values
Step 2: Explore and Choose Options

Whether you have already chosen Education as a major or are still considering it among other possibilities, it is important to explore the career and academic options this major will open up for you.

Majors:

DePaul’s department of Education offers the following majors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>The early childhood education program enables qualified students to obtain an Illinois certification to teach birth to third grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>The elementary education program enables qualified students to obtain an Illinois State certification to teach kindergarten through ninth grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
<td>The teaching major in Secondary Education focuses on educating children from sixth to twelfth grade in multiple subject areas such as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Visual Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>The teaching major in Physical Education provides preparation for teaching at both elementary and secondary schools. Heavy emphasis is placed on personalized instruction so that students may develop individual talents and gain expertise in varied activity-based areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language Education</td>
<td>In this program, qualified students can obtain an Illinois certification to teach K-12. Languages include: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, or Spanish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>This degree and certification program prepares currently certified teachers to become special education teachers. Students have the option of earning an endorsement, certification, and/or a master’s degree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Dual Certification**  
*(Graduate Students Only)*

This program is for college graduates with a bachelor's degree in a field other than education who want to teach exceptional children with a wide variety of needs. DePaul is the only university in the Chicago area to offer a program combining elementary education and special education.

**Learn more:**  
DePaul: Undergraduate – [http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp)  
DePaul: Graduate – [http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp)

**Curriculum:**

Please follow this link to review the curriculum for a degree in Education. Also, note required classes.

**View Curriculum:**  
Undergraduate — [http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/index.asp)  
Graduate — [http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp)

**Learn more about these classes:**  
Undergraduate: [http://education.depaul.edu/CoursesAndSchedules/UndergraduateCourses/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/CoursesAndSchedules/UndergraduateCourses/index.asp)  
Graduate: [http://education.depaul.edu/CoursesAndSchedules/GraduateCourses/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/CoursesAndSchedules/GraduateCourses/index.asp)

**Occupations:**

The following list, organized by suggested major, offers a *sampling* of career paths that might appeal to Education students. It is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting, but rather is intended to provide you with a starting point for considering the possibilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Childhood Education</th>
<th>Elementary Education</th>
<th>Secondary Education</th>
<th>Physical Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Child Care Worker</td>
<td>- Elementary Teacher (k-9) - All Subjects</td>
<td>- Art Instructor</td>
<td>- Health Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Curriculum Specialist*</td>
<td>- Elementary Teacher- Special Education</td>
<td>- Curriculum Designer*</td>
<td>- Physical Education Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Head Start Program</td>
<td>- Pre-school Teacher</td>
<td>- Content Area Based Instructor</td>
<td>- Recreation Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Parent Education Specialist</td>
<td>- Supervising /Lead Teacher</td>
<td>- Department Chair*</td>
<td>- Sports Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Parent Program Coordinator</td>
<td>- Department Chair*</td>
<td>- Principal</td>
<td>- Coach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public School Teacher (birth-3rd)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DePaul University Career Center | Education
## World Language Education
- Teacher (K-12)
- University/College Professor*
- Overseas Teacher for Foreign Corporations & Diplomats
- Study Abroad Coordinator
- Tutor
- Teacher for Commercial Language Schools
- ESL (English as a Second Language) Teacher
- Foreign Correspondent
- Interpreter
- International Operator
- Translator

## Special Education
- Early Interventionist
- Educational Therapist*
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- Rehabilitation Services
- Special Education Teacher
- Teacher of the Gifted and Talented

## Dual Certification
(Graduate Students Only)
- Early Interventionist
- Educational Therapist*
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- Rehabilitation Services
- Special Education Teacher
- Teacher of the Gifted and Talented
- Elementary Teacher (k-9) - All Subjects
- Elementary Teacher - Special Education
- Pre-school Teacher
- Supervising /Lead Teacher
- Department Chair*

* These occupations may require additional training and/or a graduate or doctoral degree. Speak with a Career Advisor to learn more.

Learn more: [http://www.mymajors.com/list-of-college-majors.cfm](http://www.mymajors.com/list-of-college-majors.cfm)
[http://online.onetcenter.org/find/quick?s=education](http://online.onetcenter.org/find/quick?s=education)
[http://jobs.publiccharters.org/](http://jobs.publiccharters.org/)
[http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/CareerCenter/CareerLab/AssessExplore/Quest/WhatMajor/Education.aspx](http://cms.bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/CareerCenter/CareerLab/AssessExplore/Quest/WhatMajor/Education.aspx)

### Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK):
Learn from DePaul alumni about how they have used their Education degree. ASK is a great way to begin building your network by connecting with these mentors. Below is a sample of job titles reported by alumni with Education degrees:

- Early Childhood Teacher
- Middle School Teacher
- Special Education Teacher
- Art and Music Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher
- ESL Teacher
- Principal/ President
- Curriculum Development Specialist
- Director/ Assistant Director
- Dean of Students
- Early Childhood Consultant
- District Substitute Teacher
- Adjunct Professor
- Professor
- Recruiting Specialist
- Editor
- Parent Resource Specialist
- Director of Admissions

Learn more on how to connect with alumni: [http://ask.depaul.edu](http://ask.depaul.edu)
**Online Resources:**
Research more about Education:

Learn more about “Step 2: Explore and Choose Options”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- Beyond Mingling: Networking Strategies
- LinkedIn & Other Social Media
- Networking Skills
- Hit the Ground Running I: Resume, Cover Letter, and Portfolio Preparation for Teachers
- Hit the Ground Running II: Job Search and Interview Preparation for Teachers
- Turning To Teaching
- Tours for Teachers Workshop Series
- The Teacher’s Forum
- Education Leadership Summit
- Tailored Classroom Presentations
**Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience**

Complementing your coursework in Education with internship, volunteer, work, and organization experiences is one of the smartest moves you can make in relation to your career development. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge you are gaining in the classroom, while also developing content for your resume in preparation for future opportunities.

**Intern/Volunteer:**
Here is a sample list of internships you might consider while pursuing a degree in Education. Please note any mentioned internship below is not restricted to its respective concentration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Internship Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>Day care assistant, teacher’s aide, mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Teacher’s aide, tutor, mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
<td>Teacher’s aide, tutor, mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Coach, children’s camp facilitator, mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language Education</td>
<td>Tutor for English as a second language (ESL) students, language development assistant/aide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Teacher’s aide/assistant, Special education teacher’s aide/assistant, tutor, tutor students with special needs, mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Certification</td>
<td>Teacher’s aide/assistant, Special education teacher’s aide/assistant, tutor, tutor students with special needs, mentor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search and apply for internships listed by employers specifically seeking DePaul candidates at:
- [http://depaul.experience.com](http://depaul.experience.com)
- [http://www.campusinternships.com/Education_Internships.cfm](http://www.campusinternships.com/Education_Internships.cfm)

**Find Internships/Volunteer Opportunities:**
Visit these sites to search and apply for more internships and volunteer opportunities:

**DePaul Resources:**

**Education Specific Resources:**

**Additional Resources:**
- Indeed.com: [http://www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
- Collegegrad.com: [http://www.collegegrad.com](http://www.collegegrad.com)
- CollegeRecruiter.com: [http://www.collegerecruiter.com](http://www.collegerecruiter.com)
- Careeronestop.org: [http://www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)
- Careerbuilder.com: [http://careerbuilder.com](http://careerbuilder.com)
Student Organizations and Professional Organizations:
To gain more knowledge and experience, as well as to network and build your resume, consider joining student and professional organizations related to Education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Organizations</th>
<th>Student Organizations at DePaul</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Education Oasis: <a href="http://www.educationoasis.com/resources/profdev/proforg.htm">http://www.educationoasis.com/resources/profdev/proforg.htm</a></td>
<td>- Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children (DePaul Student Chapter of CMAEYC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research and Guide Books:
Find these and more Education research and guide books at DePaul’s libraries.

- Career opportunities in education and related services by Susan Echaore-McDavid.
- Learning and work and the politics of working life: global transformations and collective identities in teaching, nursing and social work / edited by Terri Seddon, Lea Henriksson and Beatrix Niemeyer.

Learn more about the library and how to borrow these books: [http://library.depaul.edu/](http://library.depaul.edu/)

Graduate and Doctoral Programs:
Learn more about DePaul’s graduate and doctoral Education programs: [http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp](http://education.depaul.edu/Programs/Graduate/index.asp)

List of other University programs:

Learn more about “Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Prepare for Graduate School
- How to Work a Job & Internship Fair
- University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation
- Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Orientation
- iPrep: Find Your Dream Internship
- Navigating Student Employment
Step 4: Putting it all Together

The job search process can be challenging, but with the right tools, guidance, and persistence, success can be yours. Below are a number of resources that you are invited to take advantage of as a DePaul student and/or alumni.

Career Advisors for Education:
If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Lincoln Park Campus at 1-773-325-7431.

Attend Workshops:
The Career Center's career development workshops are designed to help you build and strengthen your career-related skills so you can make well-informed decisions and prepare for your job or internship search.

The Career Center offers free workshops on over 25 topics throughout the year, including resume writing, interviewing skills, effective self-marketing techniques, networking, managing your career path and many more. Workshops facilitators have in-depth knowledge in the topics covered and allow you the opportunity to ask questions throughout each session.

Pre-register for all workshops online through DePaulExperience.

Learn more: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/default.aspx

Education specific Workshops:
- Hit the Ground Running I: Resume, Cover Letter, and Portfolio Preparation for Teachers
- Hit the Ground Running II: Job Search and Interview Preparation for Teachers
- Turning To Teaching
- Tours for Teachers Workshop Series
- The Teacher's Forum
- Education Leadership Summit
- Tailored Classroom Presentations
Prepare your Resume:
Depending on the internship or job you are applying to, consider including the following types of information on your resume:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Level Professionals</th>
<th>Experienced Professionals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Education-School, Earned/Expected Degree</td>
<td>• Teaching Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expected/Earned Certification</td>
<td>• Certifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expected/Earned Endorsements</td>
<td>• Endorsements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relevant Experience such as field observation hours and student teaching</td>
<td>• Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Professional Work Experience</td>
<td>• Professional Affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relevant Organizations</td>
<td>• Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To view resume samples and an online resume tutorial, visit: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/student/resume/resumes.aspx

Or meet with a Peer Career Advisor to plan, develop and/or critique your resume. Peer Career Advising is a good place for students and alumni to begin the process of career planning. The Peer Career Advisors are undergraduate and graduate students who have been carefully selected and trained by the Career Center to work with students and alumni in an advisory capacity.

Prepare for Interviews:
To prepare for an interview for an internship or job, the Career Center offers:

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Practice Interviews** – Sign up in DePaul.Experience for a practice interview with DePaul alum. This real interview scenario will allow you to gain feedback from your practice interviewer on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Mentors** – ASK mentors are willing to meet with you individually to help you with your interviewing skills. ASK mentors are a good option to consider as they have valuable industry-specific interviewing tips.

- **Peer Career Advisors** – Meet with a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a mock interview. Peer Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you need quick interviewing help.

- **Career Advisors** – Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a more advanced mock interview. Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you are seeking more job specific interviewing tips.

- **Career Center Workshops** – Register for such interviewing workshops as “Interviewing Skills” or “Advanced Interviewing Skills” in DePaul.Experience.

- **For other interviewing resources** – Please visit: http://careercenter.depaul.edu/student/resume/interviewing.aspx
### Salary Resources:

- About.com’s Elementary & Secondary Education Trends:
  - [http://k6educators.about.com/](http://k6educators.about.com/)
  - [http://712educators.about.com/](http://712educators.about.com/)
- Salary.com: [http://www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)
- Wage web: [http://www.wageweb.com](http://www.wageweb.com)
- NACE Salary Survey 2008: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_downloads/sschartSP08.gif](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/_downloads/sschartSP08.gif)
- Indeed.com’s Salary Search: [http://www.indeed.com/salary](http://www.indeed.com/salary)

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#### Learn more about “Step 4: Putting it all Together”…Check out these Career Center Workshops

- How to Build a Portfolio
- Interviewing Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Job Search Strategies in a Challenging Job Market