

Education

The field of Education is very broad due to the fact that we are always learning. The School of Education at NMU offers four general program categories: Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. Each is interesting and unique. An elementary teacher, (grades K-8) teaches in an interdisciplinary approach across multiple subjects. Secondary teachers (grades 6-12) teach one or two subject areas with a focus on preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. A special education teacher helps to modify instruction for students with learning disabilities, cognitive impairment, or emotional impairment. Special education teachers collaborate with general education teachers to modify instruction to meet every student's needs. The early childhood teacher educates infants and toddlers with special needs, preschool children, and students in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Skills and Competencies

Education majors must be knowledgeable in their subject area and expert in working with children. They must be leaders, have good communication skills, and an understanding of educational theories and practice as they are applied in real classrooms. All educators must be sensitive to their students' special needs and be accepting of their differences. A professional educator is a person who can plan instruction and assessments that motivate and inform the learner as to their progress. They are able to communicate in a way with parents and their colleagues so as to benefit the students in their classrooms. Teachers are the type of professional that adjusts their teaching style to meet the needs of their learners. A little motivation, enthusiasm, and a sense of humor can truly make a difference in a teacher's ability to reach all children.

To be eligible to enroll in Education courses, students must meet the following criteria:

A cumulative GPA of 2.7

At least 28 credits earned

Passing score on the SAT or equivalences (ACT) as assessed by the School of Education.

Course Work

This degree requires specific coursework in subject-area content and pedagogy dependent upon the degree level sought (early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special education) and specific content major, general education, and graduation requirements.

The following professional education core courses can be expected:

Elementary

- ED301** Dimensions of American Education (2 cr.)
- ED318** Elementary Reading Instruction II (3 cr.)
- ED361** Special Ed/General Classroom Teacher (2 cr.)
- ED420** Teaching in the Elementary School (11 cr.)
- ED450** Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

Secondary

- ED301** Dimensions of American Education (2 cr.)
- ED319** Teaching of Reading/Secondary Teachers (3 cr.)
- ED380** Practicum in the Secondary School (2 cr.)
- ED361** Special Ed/General Classroom Teacher (2 cr.)
- ED483** Educational Media Technology (2 cr.)
- ED430** Teaching in the Secondary School (11 cr.)
- ED450** Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

Early Childhood

- ED 294** Application of Theories and Practices within Early Childhood Settings (4 cr.)
- ED393** Assessment in Early Childhood Environment (4 cr.)
- ED490** Internship in Early Childhood Environments (2 cr.)
- ED420** Teaching in the Elementary School (5 cr.)
- ED423E** Teaching Student in an Early Childhood Setting (6 cr.)
- ED450** Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

Special Education

- ED402** Teaching Life skills to Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
- ED403** Transition for Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
- ED404** Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
- ED405** Diagnosis and Assessment in Special Education (4 cr.)
- ED 410** Legal Rights and Services (2 cr.)
- ED423A** Teaching in the Elementary School (5 cr.)
- ED423B** Teaching Students with Cognitive Impairment in K-12 Schools (6 cr.) or **ED 423C** Teaching Students with Emotional Impairment in K-12 Schools (6 cr.)
- ED450** Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

Additional courses required depend on specific major.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine-tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. The faculty and staff in the Education program will assure you gain experience through authentic classroom teaching, professional conferences, and mock interviews to assist you in the development of a robust resume and teaching portfolio.

Additional Considerations

All occupations that come from the Education major require more than 40 hours per week of work. Teachers receive good benefits and find their jobs to be exciting and rewarding.

Administrative positions require advanced education and certification but come with greater salary and increased responsibility.

Positions in Education are highly interactive, require a great deal of patience and require professionals who enjoy problem solving with parents, children, and colleagues. Teachers prepare students for success in and out of the classroom.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicant's work experience and initiative, and usually range from \$35,000 to \$70,000. The job market for teachers is expanding faster than average, with a 6-12% increase expected with special education and STEM teachers being in higher demand. In the next decade, more than 1.5 million new teachers will be needed to inspire and support the children in our country's schools.

Potential Careers

NMU's Education Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Early Childhood Education

Kindergarten through 3rd grade

Preschool-age-

2 1/2 through 4- years old

Infant-Toddler

early intervention

or early childhood

Special education

Elementary

Integrated Science

Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Special Education

Secondary

Art and Design Integrated Science

Biology Mathematics

Chemistry Music

Earth Science Physical Education

English Physics

French Political Science

Geography Social Studies

History Spanish

Industrial Technology Special Education

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Education
179 Whitman
906-227-2728
www.nmu.edu/education

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations
Associated with this Major, Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Marquette Alger Reading Council (MARC)

Student Council for Exceptional Children
<http://myweb.nmu.edu/~smeascec/smeascec@nmu.edu>

Student Michigan Education Association (SMEA)

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.nea.org -National Education Association
www.mea.org -Michigan Education Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
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What to do with
a major in...

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