

# Early Childhood Education

*With a degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) from St. Ambrose, you're able to teach children from birth through eight years old in a variety of settings such as early childhood special education classrooms, Early Access programs, preschools and primary elementary classrooms. ECE teachers are equipped to address the needs of all children—including those with disabilities and developmental delays in inclusive programs, self-contained classrooms and home intervention programs for children birth through age three.*

## Contact us

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Visit the Teacher Education Program  
Web site at [www.sau.edu/education](http://www.sau.edu/education)

For general information about  
St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office

563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627

email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)

[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Degrees offered and requirements

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts in Education with an Early Childhood Education (ECE) endorsement. A Bachelor of Education degree also is offered for the individual who already has a bachelor's or master's degree and is seeking teacher licensure. Since these students already have earned a degree, they are exempt from taking the general education requirements. All other requirements in the Teacher Education Program apply.

Before gaining full admission to the Teacher Education Program, students must have a 2.7 cumulative GPA, maintain a 3.00 or B average in their major and provide documentation of meeting the College Basic Academic Subjects Examination (C-BASE) requirements.

The requirements specific to the Early Childhood Education endorsement are:

- Completing required courses in ECE, ECSE, special education, psychology, education and communication.
- A course in U.S. history or government.
- Seven credit hours in biological and natural science.
- A minimum of 200 clock hours of field experience and practicum work in a school or agency setting at three different age levels before student teaching.
- Student teaching consisting of a total of 15 weeks at two placements.
- Certification in infant, child and adult CPR and first aid.

## Program highlights and courses

The St. Ambrose ECE program emphasizes both course work and field experience, allowing students to begin working with children early in their college career. The Teacher Education Program has strong, established relationships with area agencies and organizations such as the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency Early Access, Davenport Public Schools Children's Villages, and the university's own Children's Campus, which enrolls more than 70 children in a child-care setting.

The Teacher Education Program at St. Ambrose includes areas of study necessary to prepare competent and professional classroom teachers and enables students to receive an initial license to teach in Iowa agencies and schools. The program is approved by the Iowa Department of Education. Through agreements with other states, graduates may apply for certification after receiving an Iowa license.

Coursework in the Early Childhood Education major prepares students to teach children, including those with disabilities and developmental delays, from birth to age eight in settings such as public and private daycares and pre-school, kindergarten, first, second and third grade.

Required courses include Early Childhood Development; Education Technology; Assessment of Young Children; Administration and Nutrition; Curriculum Development; Introduction to Speech Pathology; Literacy for Young Children; Math Education for Young Children; Managing Behavior and Social Integration Skills; and Science and Social Studies Methods/Curriculum.

## Field experience/practicum experience and student teaching

Field experience begins early in the Education major's career. This "field" time is spent in the classroom observing and working with children and used as additional practice

experience prior to student teaching. Student teaching usually is in the last semester before graduation, and the placement is all day, every day, for one semester. Early Childhood Education majors student-teach at three age levels: birth to three years, three to six years, or kindergarten to third grade. The field experience and student teaching assignments are made by the Teacher Education Program at public or private agencies and schools in the Quad City area.

## Resources and co-curricular activities

St. Ambrose has its own early childhood learning facility, the Children's Campus, located about six blocks from campus. The center enrolls children six weeks through five years and is licensed by the state of Iowa.

Teacher Education students at St. Ambrose can belong to the student chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The overall purpose of the CEC professional organization is to promote future leaders in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities, as well as promote programs designed to inform students of special education and encourage them to become involved with their peers.

Students interested in pursuing teaching as a career also are encouraged to seek admission to Kappa Delta Pi, an honorary educational association designed to recognize those who have contributed to the field of education.

## Career prospects

According to the Iowa Department of Education, 41 percent of Iowa's teachers are eligible to retire within the next ten years, and there is a growing shortage of teachers in areas such as mathematics, science, computer science, early childhood special education and English as a second language. Of the St. Ambrose Education majors who responded to a post-graduation questionnaire, those seeking employment as teachers enjoyed a 95 percent placement rate over the past four years.

Recent St. Ambrose graduates are working in the educational system as:

- Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers in the Illinois, Iowa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Texas and Wisconsin public and private school systems.
- Teachers in inclusive, self-contained and resource program models in Illinois and Iowa public school systems.
- Lead teachers for Head Start child development programs in the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities.
- Early Access teachers for Area Education Agencies.
- Many graduates are also volunteers serving on childcare advocacy and development councils on state and national levels.
- Illinois Regional Office of Education: ECSE Consultant and teacher.

## About the faculty

**Brenda Boleyn** PhD, Associate Professor

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Primary areas of interest are early childhood and elementary education. Prof. Boleyn teaches courses in curriculum development, early literacy, and reading/language arts. She holds a PhD in language and literacy from the University of Iowa and joined the St. Ambrose faculty in 1997.

**Debra Brownson**, Director, Children's Campus

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Ms. Brownson holds a master's degree in early childhood administration from National Louis University in Chicago. For the past 10 years she has served as the administrator of the St. Ambrose Children's Campus.

**Elizabeth Lasley** PhD, Assistant Professor

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Prof. Lasley's interests involve collaboration to identify and implement intervention strategies that promote successful inclusion of at-risk populations, including students with hearing impairments, English language learners and those children who have specific education in 2006 from Texas Woman's University and joined the SAU faculty in August 2007.

**Jeanne Keeney Roller** EdD, Professor

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Prof. Roller's areas of interest are curriculum for young children and child development. She earned an EdD in child and youth studies at Nova Southeastern University. She joined the St. Ambrose faculty as a part-time instructor in 1988 and in 1992 was appointed a full-time professor in education.

### Additional education faculty

Catherine Daters PhD, Professor

Richard Hanzelka PhD, Associate Professor and Eastern Iowa Writing Project Director

William Hitchings PhD, Professor and Chair, Graduate Special Education

Dean Marple EdD, Professor

Robert Ristow PhD, Professor and Dean

Tracy Schuster-Matlock PhD, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Assessment

Rachel Serianz PhD, Professor

Deanna Stoube, Assistant Professor and Reading Clinic Director

Barbara Wiese PhD, Associate Professor