

# Secondary Education

*As a teacher in the 7th through 12th grades, you'll be challenged to educate tomorrow's leaders, helping them to grow in knowledge, skill and independence. This area allows a teacher to not only deal with students in the classroom but also to interact with them in a variety of extra-curricular settings such as sports and fine arts.*

## Contact us

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 Davenport, Iowa 52803  
 Visit the Education Department  
 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 bachelor's degrees in Education with a Secondary Education endorsement.

Depending upon a student's area of study, St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Music Education, and a Bachelor of Education. A Bachelor of Education degree 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 St. Ambrose Teacher Education program, students must pass the C-BASE standardized teacher exam. The composition of the test contains English sub-sections, including writing, and mathematics sub-sections. Students must also have a 2.7 cumulative GPA and maintain a 3.00 or B average in their major and in education coursework.

The requirements specific to the Secondary Education endorsement are:

- Fulfill an endorsement requirement in the teaching major
- Complete the required courses for the secondary education endorsement as listed in the university catalog
- A minimum of 170 clock hours of field experience and practicum work in two different school settings are required before student teaching
- Endorsements are offered in the areas of: American government, K-12 art, biology, general business, marketing management, chemistry, economics, English, French, general science, German, American and world history, mathematics, K-12 music, K-12 physical education, psychology, sociology, Spanish, speech/communication/theatre, and middle school.

## Program highlights and courses

The St. Ambrose Education Department emphasizes both course work and field experience that allows teacher education candidates to begin working with students early in their college career. The department has strong, established relationships with area schools, providing students the opportunity to work closely with experienced educators. As a result, the program enjoys a regional reputation for graduating exceptional teachers who have the comprehensive skills and experience that allow them to be effective from their very first day in the classroom.

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.

The Secondary Education curriculum and its associated endorsements provide both practical experience and educational theory for teaching students in grades 7-12. Some courses offered are Diversity and Culturally-Responsive Teaching; Inclusion Strategies for Students with Special Needs; History and Philosophy of Education; Child and Adolescent Psychology; Educational Technology; and Secondary Methods.

## Field experience/practicum experience and student teaching

Field experience begins early in the Education Major's career, with time spent in the classroom observing and working with students. A minimum of 170 clock hours of pre-student teaching experiences in two different school settings is required before student teaching.

Student teaching placement is all day, every day, for one semester, and additional coursework or employment during this final semester is discouraged. The field experience and student teaching assignments are made by the Education Department to public or private agencies or schools in the Quad Cities area.

## Resources and co-curricular activities

Students interested in pursuing teaching as a career 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, 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.

Education graduates not only teach in classrooms but are also employed as school librarians, reading specialists, curriculum specialists and guidance counselors.

## About the faculty

**Cathy Daters** PhD, Professor and Department Chair

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Prof. Dater's interests are in secondary education and student teaching. She received her PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and joined the St. Ambrose faculty in 2000 with an appointment of teaching, coordinating field placements, and directing student teachers.

**Richard Hanzelka** PhD, Associate Professor

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Prof. Hanzelka teaches several courses in the teacher education sequence. He received his doctorate in English education, reading, literature for young adults, and administration from the University of Iowa. He has been at St. Ambrose since 2002.

**Dean Marple** EdD, Professor

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Prof. Marple's main focus is in secondary education. He received his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Illinois State University. He began his educational career as a junior high and senior high teacher and administrator before joining the St. Ambrose faculty in 1989.

### Additional education faculty

Brenda Boleyn PhD, Associate Professor

Debra Brownson, Director, Children's Campus

William Hitchings PhD, Professor and Chair, Special Education

Jeanne Keeney Roller EdD, Professor

Robert Ristow PhD, Professor and Dean

Tracy Schuster-Matlock PhD, Associate Professor and  
Assessment Coordinator

Rachel Serianz PhD, Professor

Deanna Stoube, Assistant Professor and Reading Clinic  
Director

Tanya Volkova, Assistant Professor

Barbara Wiese PhD, Associate Professor