

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.

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.

The St. Ambrose ECE program emphasizes coursework 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 and Curriculum.

Field experience begins early in the education major's career. This field time spent in the classroom observing and working with children is 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 two of the 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.

## Ambrose Advantages

Teachers have never been in more demand. And the rewards have never been greater. When you choose to major in education at St. Ambrose, you will have immediate access to a department and faculty that excels in creating an enriching learning environment. The St. Ambrose School of Education has received statewide recognition for the quality of its programs and graduates. Not only do our education majors enjoy a low student-teacher ratio, they are assigned faculty mentors to help guide them throughout their education.

The world of pre-school and early school age children is full of excitement, wonder and challenge. Because patterns of thinking and

learning are formed at an early age, early childhood teachers have a profound influence on children. The early childhood education programs at St. Ambrose prepare you to work with children in classrooms, or in such settings as childcare centers and nursery schools.

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.

Students interested in pursuing teaching as a career are encouraged to seek admission to Iota Omega Kappa Delta Pi, the SAU chapter of an international education honor society designed to recognize those who have contributed to the field of education.

Teacher education students 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.

## Career Opportunities

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

## Career Outlook

- > Elementary education teaching positions ranked 10th—based on growth potential and job and salary satisfaction—among social service jobs in a 2014 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of jobs.
- > In a poll among teachers in elementary and secondary education conducted by the National Science Foundation, 90 percent expressed high job satisfaction. The NSF survey shows teachers are more likely to stay in the profession than college graduates in most other occupations.
- > Special education and pre-school teaching rank as the 29th fastest-growing profession in the U.S., with a growth rate of 16 percent through 2022, as estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Kindergarten teaching ranks 49th in the same study, with an expected growth rate of 13 percent.
- > Among professions requiring a four-year degree, elementary, secondary and middle school teaching were predicted to have the third, fourth and seventh most annual job openings, according to a 2014 study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Where Some of Our Graduates Work

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

- > Kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade teachers in public and private school systems in Illinois, Arizona, California, Colorado, Texas and Wisconsin
- > Teachers in inclusive, self-contained and resource program models in Illinois and Iowa public school systems
- > Lead teachers or 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

## Your Career: Networking, Field Experience and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. With its rich history and people from many cultures, the Quad Cities offers a diverse population and experiences for students. For students majoring in education, St. Ambrose also has strong connections to more than 150 public and private schools in the Quad City area. All this makes the Quad Cities an exceptional place for networking, field experience placements and jobs.

## Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu), or go online to [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu).

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