

Elementary Education

As fulfilling as a teaching career is, teaching children in elementary school offers the unique reward of cultivating young, eager minds in their most formative years. As an elementary teacher, you have the opportunity to instill in children a love of and enthusiasm for learning they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts in Education with an endorsement in Elementary Education. 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 the candidate has already earned a degree, that individual is exempt from having to meet the general education requirements. All other requirements in the Teacher Education program apply.

Elementary education majors select an approved area of concentration in one of the following areas: English/language arts, mathematics, reading, science, social studies, foreign language, or Special Education Instructional Strategist 1 mild/moderate program. Designated courses are also required in the area of concentration that is chosen.

The St. Ambrose University Teacher Education Program (TEP) emphasizes both course work and field experience that allows teacher education candidates to begin working with students early in their college careers. The TEP has strong, established relationships with area schools, providing students with many opportunities 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 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 and nationally accredited by TEAC.

Both Iowa and Illinois classify fifth-eighth grades as middle school. Illinois requires a middle school endorsement for those wishing to teach at those levels (with additional coursework required). Iowa encourages coursework with middle school emphasis but it is optional. St. Ambrose offers the middle school endorsement coursework to education students.

Elementary education majors gain a foundation in liberal arts subjects, learn a variety of methods for understanding how and why children develop socially and intellectually, and get professional experience that includes research in teaching and learning.

Field experience begins early in the elementary education major's career. As early as the second semester of their first year,



before admission to the TEP, the prospective teacher education candidate spends 50 hours in the classroom observing and working with children. Later, after being admitted to the TEP, students are required to prepare and teach lessons in a variety of K–6 classroom settings while taking part in content area-specific practicum courses, for example language arts and reading methods and science methods.

Elementary education students earn 15 credit hours for student teaching, which is usually in the last semester before graduation. The 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 School of Education to public or private schools in the Quad Cities 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 education majors enjoy a low student-teacher ratio, they are assigned faculty mentors to help guide them throughout their education.

The world of elementary school age children is full of excitement, wonder and challenge. Because patterns of thinking and learning are formed at an early age, elementary school teachers have a profound influence on children. Elementary education teachers can cover several subjects with their students or specialize in a particular field. Whichever path you choose, St. Ambrose prepares you to be a highly effective educator.

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, with additional study, are also employed as **school librarians, reading specialists, curriculum specialists, school administrators, 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:

- > Brandon Valley (South Dakota) School District, early childhood teacher
- > Clinton (Iowa) High School, principal
- > Davenport Community School District, math coach-teacher
- > Fairfield Grand Desert Resort, activities coordinator
- > Martin (Lake of the Hills, Illinois) Elementary School, principal
- > Mississippi Bend Area Education Center, speech-language pathologist
- > New Boston (Illinois) Elementary School, special education resource teacher
- > Rock Island (Illinois) School District, Title I 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, or go online to www.sau.edu.

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