

Working with students with special needs provides a challenging yet rewarding career in the field of education. Special education teachers work as part of a team within school systems. They may work with other teachers on methods for teaching students with disabilities in their classrooms or run a resource room where students come for specialized instruction.

The St. Ambrose Teacher Education Program offers the Instructional Strategist I: Mild/Moderate endorsement at the K-8 level. This endorsement is earned along with a BA degree in elementary education.

In the Instructional Strategist I: Mild/Moderate (K-8) endorsement program, students have the opportunity to combine university classroom learning while working with students with mild/moderate disabilities in special education and inclusive settings in the field. Strategies and methods for implementing research-based practices into actual teaching situations are emphasized.

Field experience begins early in the education major's career, and this field time is spent in the classroom observing and working with students. Student teaching is usually in the last semester before graduation. The placement is all day every day for one semester, in a general education classroom for the first half of the semester and in a special education program for the second half. The field experience and student teaching assignments are made by the Teacher Education program in public or private agencies or schools in the Quad City area. Additional coursework or employment during this final semester is discouraged.

Special education students at St. Ambrose University have their own 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 to encourage them to become involved with their peers.

Ambrose Advantages

Teachers have never been in more demand. And the rewards have never been greater. Teachers whose talents lie in specialized fields—such as working with students with physical or mental disabilities—are in particular demand in both the public and private school systems.

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.

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.

Career Opportunities

Teacher candidates completing the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with an Instructional Strategies I: Mild/Moderate endorsement will be certified to teach as a general education teacher at the K-6 level or a special education teacher at the K-8 level. Certification is also contingent on passing the PRAXIS II exams in elementary content and elementary pedagogy.

Career Outlook

- > Special education ranks 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.
- > 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.
- > 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.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with an endorsement in special 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. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.

09.16