



Early Childhood Education (Grades Pre K-4) | Major

"The education department has provided me with the ability to maintain a classroom both physically and academically while adhering to strict schedules and meeting the Pennsylvania state standards. Alongside of my course work, I have had hands-on classroom experience through Alvernia University in Autistic Support, Emotional and Behavioral Support and various inclusive classroom grade levels!"—Cory Marques '12, Northampton, PA.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia University is dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Alvernia's Early Childhood Education (Pre K-4) program prepares teachers to serve and to value a diverse group of young children and families in a variety of educational settings, which is of growing importance in today's schools. It combines a sound liberal arts background with field work and studies in human growth and development, curriculum, methods and materials. Designed to meet new Pennsylvania State Department of Education and national standards, the program prepares students for certification in early childhood education focusing on the learning needs of children through age nine.

RELATED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Alvernia Education Association** seeks to provide its student members with opportunities to enrich their college experience and prepare them for careers in education. Alvernia University students and professors commonly work together on service projects within local schools. The Education Association hosts guest lecturers, special activities coinciding with college-sponsored events, and special events that enable participants to gain knowledge and skills specific to the education field.

Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society's mission is to honor outstanding educators and inspire them to be effective leaders who address critical issues in education.

The **Council for Exceptional Children** is dedicated to individuals with disabilities and their families through service activities in the local community and through access to professional organization activities at the state and national level.

CAREER SUCCESS

Alvernia Education graduates are employed in virtually all schools in Berks County, and in many schools throughout the Middle Atlantic region, nationally and internationally. Our Career Services staff provides assistance with resume preparation, interview skills and job and graduate school searches.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Students are admitted into the Education Department and are fully accepted when all of the following criteria have been met:

- Successful completion of 48 credit hours
- Six (6) semester credit hours of mathematics
- Three (3) semester credit hours in college level English Composition
- Three (3) semester credit hours in college level English/American Literature
- Successful completion of the PRAXIS I Tests
- Current clearances for field experiences (FBI Fingerprint, Criminal Background, Child Abuse)
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Entrance application into Education Program including faculty recommendation

All Education students complete three or more field placements and student teaching. All coursework must be completed prior to student teaching. Applicants for the student teaching assignment must have the approval of the Education Department and an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Each candidate for certification must take the PRAXIS II before student teaching and must pass the PRAXIS II Subject Tests before applying for an Instructional I Certificate.

*For current information on education curriculum, please visit www.alvernia.edu/academics/professional-programs/education

CONTACT INFORMATION

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