



Special Education | Dual Certification

"My relationships with the special education faculty lasted throughout college and into my full-time job. I feel like I can still go to them for advice in the field!"—Kirsten Goeb '07, Special Education Teacher, Foundation Academy Charter School, Trenton, New Jersey

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia University is dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. The Special Education program combines a sound liberal arts background with field work and studies in human growth and development, curriculum, methods, and materials.

Approved by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education, the Special Education program requires coursework and other requirements leading to a dual certification in both Special Education (Pre K-8) and Early Childhood Education in Math and English/Language/Reading in order to be "most highly qualified" according to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The design of the dual certification program allows candidates to gain the theoretical knowledge and pedagogical skills necessary in today's world of special education.

The Special Education curriculum prepares graduates to effectively deal with those students with "special needs" that are included in the regular classroom, along with preparing them to teach students in most special education classrooms that are Pre Kindergarten through grade eight.

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 Finger Print, 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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