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

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 grade 4.

The Early Childhood Education curriculum prepares students to teach grades Pre-K through 4. Students are encouraged to obtain dual certification in early childhood and special education as this option can help increase a candidate’s professional marketability in school districts.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

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

- Successful completion of 48 credit hours
- Six (6) semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of mathematics
- Six (6) semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of English composition and American/British literature
- Successful completion of the PRAXIS I Tests
- Faculty recommendation
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Certification Candidacy Application

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 pass the PRAXIS II Subject Tests prior to applying for an Instructional I Certificate.

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. Students obtaining a dual certification are particularly marketable after graduation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Child Life Specialist
Curriculum Specialist
Education and Training Administrator
Education Management Specialist
Education Consultant
Educational Researcher

Educational Resource Coordinator
Elementary School Teacher
Kindergarten School Teacher
Resource Teacher
Textbook Writer

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth, and is a builder of pride through recognition.
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

BA/Early Childhood Education

Liberal Arts Core (47/48)*

General Elective Requirements (as needed)**

Early Childhood Education Major Requirements (75 credits)

SPE 100 Introduction to Exceptionalities in Children and Youth
SPE 211 Teaching Reading/Language Arts to Students with Disabilities
ED 200 Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education
ED 204 Human Development and Learning
ED 206 Field Experience I
ED 208 Health and Physical Education in the Elementary School
ED 209 Planning, Instruction & Assessment
ED 210 Methods for the Elementary Inclusive Classroom
ED 300 Teaching Science in Elementary School
ED 302 Principles of Writing Instruction
ED 306 Field Experience II
ED 310 Skills for Early Childhood Education
ED 313 Managing Classroom Learning Communities
ED 314 Teaching the Arts in Elementary School
ED 400 Assessment and Evaluation
ED 402 Professional Seminar
ED 403 Reading Methods for the Elementary Inclusive Classroom
ED 404 Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School
ED 413 Language Development through Literature
ED 414 Teaching Social Studies in Elementary School
ED 436 Field Experience III
ED 470 Student Teaching
ED 472 Student Teaching Seminar

Note: Grade of C or better is required for all Education courses

Related Requirement
MAT 106 Mathematics for Teachers II

*Students entering the program with 70+ transferable credits or an associate’s degree must complete 33/34 Liberal Arts Core credits.

**A total of 123 credits including 3 credits in a human diversity course are required to complete a Bachelor’s degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. In addition, at least 30 credits at the 300/400 level must be taken at Alvernia University.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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