

Education



"Development of critical, reflective thinking is part of Bethel's mission to create leaders. We in the education department see reflection as the fuel that bursts forth in the flame of effective teaching."

—Allen Jantz, secondary education program director



Question

How will I know if this is the right major for me?

Answer

You'll be assigned a faculty advisor from the department right from the start who will work with you to explore the options available in education and set up a course schedule. Because our education program emphasizes direct classroom experience early on, you'll be able to find out first hand if teaching is what you want to pursue. Bethel College offers state-approved teaching programs in:

- Elementary education (K–6th)
- Special education (K–6th adaptive; 6th–12th adaptive)
- Elementary and Secondary (Pre-K–12th) with specialties in art, health education, music, and physical education.
- Secondary (6th–12th) in biology, chemistry, English, history and government, math, and speech/theater

If you love to work with children or adolescents; if you want to make an impact in the lives of children and adolescents on many levels; if you enjoy learning and helping others learn; if you're someone with good communication and people skills who likes relating to all ages, education could be the major you're looking for. If you have a lot of patience, along with a particular interest in children and youth with special education needs such as learning disabilities, mental retardation, behavior disorders or physical disabilities, you might want to look at Bethel's special education program. Bethel is a member of the Associated Colleges of Central Kansas, a group of small liberal arts institutions that shares faculty and programming in some areas. As such, Bethel has the only special education program among this group on its campus.

Question

What core education courses are required for a degree in education at Bethel College?

Answer

Foundation courses for education majors include:

- Early Field Experience
- Introduction to Infants, Children and Youth with Special Needs
- Introduction to Education
- Media and Computers for Education
- School and Community
- Psychological Foundations for Education
- Behavior Management



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Seek.
Serve.
Grow.

Question

What kind of practical experience will I get?

Answer

One thing that distinguishes Bethel College's education program from many others is how quickly students begin to put theory into practice, by going into school classrooms in a teacher's aide role to observe "from the other side of the desk" and through micro-teaching with peers in the college classroom. All education methods classes include field experience. Field experience, including student teaching, takes place in settings that range from large urban to small rural public school systems, from Christian and other private schools to multicultural (multiple language) institutions and one-on-one or small group tutoring situations. Reflection is an important part of Bethel's education program—you bring what you learn in the school classroom back to your peers in the college classroom for debriefing, discussion and feedback. "Read-experience-reflect" describes the method—from theory to practice to evaluation.



Question

What can I expect after graduation?

Answer

Many Bethel College education graduates score 20 points over the "cut" score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching exam, the national teaching certification test. As a result, Bethel graduates are in great demand—some school systems even maintain a "standing order" for them. Bethel College teaching programs are accredited by the Kansas Department of Education and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA)

Bethel College data demonstrates that of the students that completed the Bethel College teacher education program in the 2008-2009 school year, 100% passed the professional knowledge component of the Praxis Exam (Principles of Learning and Teaching). The full state Title II report can be accessed at http://www.bethelks.edu/academics/areas/teacher_ed/pdfs/title2_report0910.pdf.

Our education graduates have gone on to graduate school and voluntary service as well as pursued careers in:

- Tutoring (e.g., Sylvan Learning Center, teaching English as a second language)
- Classroom teaching in public and private school systems of all sizes
- Administration (e.g., principal, assistant principal, superintendent)
- School counseling
- Coaching
- Pre-school and early childhood services
- Camp counseling and camp directing
- Special education, including Adapted Physical Education
- Youth pastoring
- Reading specialties
- Bilingual education

"I came into my classroom a step ahead of other new teachers. Nearly every day I'm aware of something new that I had experienced during my education courses that my peers had not. I was well prepared to enter this profession."

—Ryan Bartel '03, 5th grade,
Overland Park, Kan.



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