

# ***For Future Education Majors***

Do you want to make a difference in the world through teaching? Are you energized working with children? Committed to engaging with youth? The School of Education offers several majors that can help you launch a rewarding career in education. All are guided by this conceptual framework:

***Preparing caring, critical, and reflective professionals  
to maximize student success***

Here is what some of our School of Education graduates have to say about their work:

<https://www.newpaltz.edu/admissions/acceptedstudents/>

As you continue through this module, you will learn about the different opportunities for study in the School of Education, and answers to some common questions.

## **My progress report still says I am undeclared. How do I officially become an education major?**

Students are not admitted automatically to the School of Education, but apply/declare during their first or second year, once they have met entrance requirements.

## What different education majors are there?

- Adolescence Education (grades 7-12) in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, Mathematics, Physics, or Social Studies – *leads to NYS teacher certification*
- Early Childhood & Childhood Education (birth-grade 6) with required academic concentration in Art History, Biology, Black Studies, Earth Science, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Political Science or Spanish – *leads to NYS teacher certification*
- Early Childhood Studies with required academic concentration – *does not lead to NYS certification*

Here are links to 8-semester plans for each of the teacher certification majors. Rarely do students follow these plans exactly, but the plans demonstrate sequencing and show how students typically progress through their four years.

[Adolescence Education 8-semester plans](#)

[Early Childhood & Childhood Education 8-semester plans](#)

## What is the Early Childhood Studies major?

This new major within the School of Education allows students to focus on young children and their environment. It does not lead to New York state teacher certification, but provides an excellent preparation for someone who wishes to understand and work with young children in varied contexts, or to continue on into graduate study. The major includes field experiences and internships, as well as an academic concentration outside the School of Education.

[https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/education/early\\_childhood\\_studies/](https://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/education/early_childhood_studies/)

Early Childhood Studies does not have entrance requirements. You may declare it during your first or second year.

## What are the entrance requirements for the teacher certification majors?

- Have a 3.0 or better GPA

- Earn a B or better in ENG170 Writing & Rhetoric (or in at least 4 credits of freshman composition courses)
- Meet any entrance criteria set by your intended concentration/major department

Admission to the Adolescence education programs requires an application with essay. Early Childhood & Childhood Education does not require an application, but students must complete 30 independent fieldwork hours and a writing & math assessment before moving into junior-year courses.

First-year students who express an interest in education are advised by Joanna Schroer, who has an office in Old Main, the School of Education building.

### **What education courses can I take my first year?**

Students considering an education major are encouraged to take the 1-credit EDI233 Education Seminar during either fall or spring of their freshman year.

### **Does New Paltz offer a program in Special Education? Or one for teaching English Language Learners?**

New Paltz offers master's degree programs that lead to certification in Special Education and in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Our faculty believe that students are better served by completing a broad-based undergraduate education program first, before they specialize.

Since all NYS public-school teachers must eventually earn a master's degree, many students use their master's to earn an additional teaching certificate in Special Education, TESOL, or another specialized field.

### **When will I start observing or assisting in a classroom? How does that work?**

Credit-bearing fieldwork begins fall of junior year for Early Childhood & Childhood Education students, and spring of junior year for Adolescence Education students. These fieldwork placements will be a few to several hours a day, one day per week.

The School of Education will place you within commuting distance of campus (or your home, if you're a commuter). We have relationships with school districts throughout the mid-Hudson Valley and beyond.

The final semester for teacher-certification students is student teaching. Student teaching is a full-time, all-day, every day capstone experience. It can be completed in the Hudson Valley, in New York City, or on Long Island.

Early Childhood Studies students complete fieldwork and internships in varied settings, such as daycare centers, children's museums or pediatric health facilities.

### **Will I need a car?**

It is each student's responsibility to get to and from fieldwork, internship, and student teaching placements. Since there are very few placements within walking distance of campus, and bus service is limited in our rural area, a car is extremely helpful. Students without cars usually arrange carpools with peers who have cars or request a placement on a bus line.

### **As an education student, can I take on a double major or minor?**

Since education students have an academic concentration or major, they already have a second area of focus. With careful planning, some students are able to complete a minor in a third field within four years. An additional major unrelated to the teaching program almost always requires additional time to graduation.

### **Can education students study abroad?**

Our faculty strongly encourage education students to study abroad! There are semester-away options, summer study, and a student-teaching study abroad opportunity in Australia. Any study abroad experience requires early consultation and careful planning with your education advisor. Visit the [Center for International Programs](#) for more information.

## **Can education students be part of the Honors Program, or the Scholars Mentorship Program?**

Yes! Once admitted into Honors, students take honors seminar courses, and complete a capstone project or thesis senior year. SMP students take a freshman-year course, and may choose follow-up mentorship/leadership courses. Because education majors have so many required courses, it is important to plan carefully if you want to take part in an additional program. Visit the [Honors Program](#) or the [Scholars Mentorship Program](#) for more details.

## **What else will I have to do to become certified as a teacher?**

In addition to your academic courses and field experiences, Adolescence Education and Early Childhood & Childhood Education students are responsible for these certification tasks: getting fingerprinted for a TEACH account, completing state-mandated workshops and trainings, and taking certification exams at the end of their program. The School of Education has a certification advisor help navigate certification questions as you complete your program.