

# Education

The field of Education is very broad due to the fact that we are always learning. The School of Education at NMU offers three general program categories: Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education. Each is interesting and unique. An elementary teacher, (grades K-8) teaches in an interdisciplinary approach across multiple subjects. Secondary teachers (grades 6-12) teach one or two subject areas with a focus on preparing students for post-secondary education and careers. A special education teacher helps to modify instruction for students with learning disabilities, cognitive impairment, or emotional impairment. Special education teachers collaborate with general education teachers to modify instruction to meet every students needs. The early childhood teacher educates infants and toddlers with special needs, preschool children, and students in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

## Skills and Competencies

Education majors must be knowledgeable in their subject area and expert in working with children. They must be leaders, have good communication skills, and an understanding of educational theories and practice as they are applied in real classrooms. All educators must be sensitive to their students' special needs and be accepting of their differences. A professional educator is a person who can plan instruction and assessments that motivate and inform the learner as to their progress. They are able to communicate in a way with parents and their colleagues so as to benefit the students in their classrooms. Teachers are the type of professional that adjusts their teaching style to meet the needs of their learners. A little motivation, enthusiasm, and a sense of humor can truly make a difference in a teacher's ability to reach all children.

*To be eligible to enroll in beginning Education courses, students must meet the following criteria:*

A cumulative GPA of 2.7 (includes transfer grades)

At least 28 credits earned

Higher level Education courses require a cumulative GPA of 3.0

## Course Work

This degree requires specific coursework in subject-area content and pedagogy dependent upon the degree level sought (early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special education) and specific content major, general education, and graduation requirements.

*The following professional education core courses can be expected:*

### Elementary

ED301	Dimensions of American Education (2 cr.)
ED318	Elementary Reading Instruction II (3 cr.)
ED361	Special Ed/General Classroom Teacher (2 cr.)
ED420	Teaching in the Elementary School (11 cr.)
ED450	Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

### Secondary

ED301	Dimensions of American Education (2 cr.)
ED319	Teaching of Reading/Secondary Teachers (3 cr.)
ED380	Practicum in the Secondary School (2 cr.)
ED361	Special Ed/General Classroom Teacher (2 cr.)
ED483	Educational Media Technology (2 cr.)
ED430	Teaching in the Secondary School (11 cr.)
ED450	Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

### Special Education

ED402	Teaching Life skills to Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
ED403	Transition for Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
ED404	Assistive Technology for Students with Disabilities (2 cr.)
ED405	Diagnosis and Assessment in Special Education (4 cr.)
ED 410	Legal Rights and Services (2 cr.)
ED423A	Teaching in the Elementary School (5 cr.)
ED423B	Teaching Students with Cognitive Impairment in K-12 Schools (6 cr.) or ED 423C Teaching Students with Emotional Impairment in K-12 Schools (6 cr.)
ED450	Seminar in Teaching (1 cr.)

*Additional courses required depend on specific major. Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).*

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advise-ment Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine-tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. The faculty and staff in the Education program will assure you gain experience through authentic classroom teaching, professional conferences, and mock inter-views to assist you in the development of a robust resume and teaching portfolio.

## Additional Considerations

All occupations that come from the Education major require more than 40 hours per week of work. Teachers receive good benefits and find their jobs to be exciting and rewarding.

Administrative positions require advanced education and certification but come with greater salary and increased responsibility.

Positions in Education are highly interactive, require a great deal of patience and require professionals who enjoy problem solving with parents, children, and colleagues. Teachers prepare students for success in and out of the classroom.

## Job Outlook

Teachers earn 13% more than the average salary across the nation, making \$63,645 per year while the national average salary is \$56,310. The employment outlook for teachers is expected to grow by 4 percent between 2019 and 2029 with special education and STEM teachers being in higher demand. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization estimates the world will need 69 million new teachers by 2030 to meet global education goals.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Education Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

## Elementary

- Integrated Science
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Special Education

## Secondary

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Art and Design    | Integrated Science    |
| Biology           | Mathematics           |
| Chemistry         | Music                 |
| Special Education | Health-Physical Ed.   |
| English           | Physics               |
| French            | Industrial Technology |
| History           | Social Studies        |
|                   | Spanish               |

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Department of Education  
179 Whitman  
906-227-2728  
[www.nmu.edu/education](http://www.nmu.edu/education)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major, Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Marquette Alger Reading Council (MARC)

Student Council for Exceptional Children  
<http://myweb.nmu.edu/~smeascec/smeascec@nmu.edu>

Student Michigan Education Association (SMEA)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) -National Education Association  
[www.mea.org](http://www.mea.org) -Michigan Education Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

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