

# Early Childhood Education

college to career major map



Career Development Center

	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR	4TH OR FINAL YEAR
Academics	<p>Explore the foundations of <b>Education</b> along with some LASC courses.</p> <p>Still not 100% certain of your major? <b>Take the FOCUS2 and explore all your options.</b></p> <p>Need a little help in your classes? <b>Look into tutoring with the Academic Support Center.</b></p>	<p>Take a deeper dive into the discipline of <b>Education</b> and begin considering a minor in Special Education.</p> <p><b>Schedule an appointment with a Career Coach</b> to discuss how to connect your academics to your future career.</p>	<p>Schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation.</p> <p>Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and keep track of application timelines.</p>	<p>Participate in the <b>Student Academic Conference</b> to showcase research, connect with employers, and to boost your resume.</p> <p>Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time.</p>
On-Campus Experience	<p>Sign up to participate in the <b>Education Learning Community.</b></p> <p>Join a major or interest specific student organization such as <b>Early Minnesota Aspiring Educators</b> or <b>Student Council for Exceptional Children.</b></p> <p>Participate in <b>Student Life Pathways</b> to continue growing your skills/knowledge outside of the classroom. We recommend starting with the Community Life Pathway.</p>	<p>Find a part-time position like working in MSUM's <b>Early Education Center as a Teacher's Assistant.</b> Visit <b>DragonJobs powered by Handshake</b> to find opportunities.</p> <p>Continue working on your <b>Student Life Pathways.</b> Try working your way through the Personal Wellness and the Equity and Inclusion paths.</p>	<p>Begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position or run for an officer position in your student organization. Find available leadership positions on <b>DragonJobs</b> in early spring.</p> <p>During your third year, we suggest focusing on the <b>Professional Success and Contribution and Influence Student Life Pathways.</b> These will help connect you to potential employers and develop skills necessary for success post graduation.</p>	<p>Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, or part-time employment.</p> <p>Finish up your pathways and be sure to add your accomplishments to your LinkedIn and resume.</p>
Connect to the Community	<p>Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations such as <b>Boys and Girls Club of the RRV, Churches United for the Homeless, Youthworks,</b> or <b>Big Brothers Big Sisters.</b></p>	<p>Join <b>LinkedIn</b> to begin building your professional network and online presence. Think of your profile as a virtual resume and make sure to update it regularly to reflect new jobs, research, coursework, volunteering, involvement, and skills.</p>	<p>Continue your involvement with student organizations, on and/or off-campus employment, the student life pathways, field experience, etc...</p> <p>Think about teaching a course during the summer with <b>College for Kids &amp; Teens.</b></p>	<p>Complete your student teaching experience.</p> <p>Join professional organizations such as <b>Education Minnesota, MN Association for the Education of Young Children,</b> or the <b>National Association for the Education of Young Children</b> to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards.</p>
Understand Your Career	<p>Start researching potential career paths on <b>O*Net.</b> Here, you will be able to find valuable information such as typical tasks associated with the profession, skills and knowledge needed, education and licensures needed, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. We suggest you search for careers such as <b>P-3 Elementary School Teacher.</b></p>	<p>Find related part-time employment such as America Reads Tutor positions. This position allows you to develop the real-world skills you need for your career. Connect with the Career Development Center to learn more.</p> <p>Attend <b>Career Development Center events and workshops</b> to develop professional skills such as interviewing, negotiation, and more.</p>	<p>Visit with your advisor about the teacher licensure process. Begin preparing for state licensure exams.</p> <p>Continue <b>attending professional development-related events</b> on-campus, and connect with faculty and teachers in your classrooms to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search.</p>	<p>Attend the Tri-College Education Fair and the <b>MN Education Job Fair</b> to connect with districts. Both of these events take place every spring. Check DragonCentral for more information.</p> <p><b>Schedule appointments with a Career Coach</b> to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. And remember, once a dragon always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.</p>

## Where can you go?

A degree in **early childhood education** can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation and many continue their education after a few years in the classroom. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n):

- Childcare Administrator
- Early Childhood Educator
- Pre-k - 3rd Public School Teacher
- Non-Profit Employee
- Head Start/Early Head Start Teacher
- Teacher Aide
- Coach
- Private Childcare Provider
- Early Interventionist

## What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of **education** you will need the following skills:

- critical thinking
- active listening
- empathy
- dependability
- adaptability
- integrity
- self control

Thankfully, through coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment, and student teaching, you will be prepared for life post-graduation.