

What can I do with a Major in...

Major: Elementary and Secondary Education

“Education is the study of how human beings teach, learn, and develop knowledge, values, skills and character qualities.”

O*net Outlook Link to Career Titles

[Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School](#)
[Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School](#)
[Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education](#)
[Special Education Teachers, Secondary School](#)
[Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education](#)
[Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education](#)
[Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors](#)
[Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education](#)
[Information and Record Clerks, All Other](#)
[Vocational Education Teachers, Secondary School](#)
[Education Teachers, Postsecondary](#)
[Librarians](#)
[Adult Literacy, Remedial Education, and GED Teachers and Instructors](#)
[Teacher Assistants](#)
[Self-Enrichment Education Teachers](#)
[Directors, Religious Activities and Education](#)
[Special Education Teachers, Middle School](#)
[Vocational Education Teachers, Postsecondary](#)
[Education Administrators, Preschool and Child Care Center/Program](#)
[English Language and Literature Teachers, Postsecondary](#)
[Health Educators](#)

What are some additional career titles?

Instructional Coordinators
Self-Enrichment Education Teachers
Education Specialist
Curriculum Developer
Education Advisor
Student Retention Coordinator
Outreach Coordinator/Recruitment

What qualities and characteristics should I possess?

- ✓ Desire to help others to learn and succeed
- ✓ Recognition and appreciation from others
- ✓ Intellectual growth
- ✓ Enjoyment of working and being with people
- ✓ Fondness for and dedication to human potential
- ✓ Sensitive, warm, friendly attitude
- ✓ Thirst for knowledge and understanding
- ✓ Ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense

What knowledge, skills and abilities will I obtain?

- ✓ Lifelong learning through theory, research and reflective practice
- ✓ Lifelong understanding of educational theories and practices and proficiency in one or more specialized areas
- ✓ Promotes collegiality and works cooperatively and collaboratively with all stakeholders of the learning community to improve the condition of the local and larger community
- ✓ Demonstrates global understanding of how individual development, cultural diversity, socioeconomic conditions and individual differences influence the opportunities of all individuals to learn and contribute to their full potential
- ✓ Uses and participates in research and leadership activities
- ✓ Uses a variety of appropriate and ethical assessment techniques to enhance learning and teaching
- ✓ Masters appropriate disciplines so as to engage students in meaningful learning experiences
- ✓ Integrates educational technology in the teaching and learning processes
- ✓ Demonstrates reflection on professional strengths and needs and plans for professional development to improve future performance
- ✓ Aptitude for leadership and assumes the responsibility to be active in the profession
- ✓ Understands the relationship between schools and the larger culture and school as culture
- ✓ Ability to relate and interact with people of different personalities and backgrounds
- ✓ Identifies and justifies the standards of professional behavior

Some Associations I should consider joining:

[Texas Education Association](#)

[American College Personnel Association](#)

[American Federation of Teachers](#)

[National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education](#)

[National Education Association](#)

[Association for International Educators](#)

[American Educational Research Association](#)

Description of Coursework:

Early Childhood-4th grade or 4th-8th grade certification

As a teacher, you will be vital in the development of the whole child, as you will affect emotional, social and academic growth. Teachers spend their day working with students from diverse backgrounds, often working in classrooms where several languages are represented, students with disabilities are included and stringent accountability measures are in place. The Early Childhood-4th grade and 4th-8th grade degree programs will prepare you for this rewarding but demanding workplace. You will discover how children learn, techniques of classroom organization and management, instructional strategies, assessment tools, strategies for effective teaching and learning, and collaborative skills for working with teaching teams to assure optimal student learning.

UNT's Early Childhood-4 and 4-8 programs in teacher education require you to commit to a full year of professional courses and field experiences in the Professional Development School (PDS) program. This intense preparation assures that teacher candidates are well prepared for the challenges of the first few years of teaching. Many district administrators report that UNT teacher education graduates are as prepared in their first year of teaching as second- or third-year teachers. Districts are highly interested in hiring UNT graduates based on the excellent reputation of our candidates and the evidence that our candidates tend to remain in the profession longer than those who have not gone through a PDS program. All UNT candidates are especially prepared for technology in teaching, ESL and special education strategies, infusion of the arts in the regular curriculum, and addressing the needs of all learners.

In addition, you may choose to complete the requirements for additional certification in special education, bilingual education or ESL.

After you complete the 47 credit hours in UNT's core curriculum, courses will focus on the academic major and teaching/pedagogy portions of the degree. In addition to the core curriculum, each program requires courses in a field of study to be completed before beginning courses in the academic major. The academic major for EC-4 includes courses in early childhood, science, mathematics and reading/English/language arts. The 4-8 academic major includes courses in mathematics, science, social studies and reading/English/language arts. Both programs require an additional course in technology and one in fine/performing arts. These programs also include courses in ESL strategies and inclusion strategies.

Grades 8-12 [secondary] education certification

To qualify for 8-12 certification in Texas, you must major in an academic subject area and complete certification course work in secondary education. Prospective high school English teachers, for example, major in English language arts through the College of Arts and Sciences and take education courses in the College of Education. A second teaching field is available in many academic disciplines.

At the beginning of the freshman year or before transferring to UNT, you should check with the appropriate academic department for specific degree requirements. Students should also seek advising through the College of Education's Student Advising Office in Matthews Hall, Room 105.

All-level certification in art, music and kinesiology

You may choose to work toward Early Childhood-12th grade certification in Art, Music and Kinesiology. At the beginning of the freshman year or before transferring to UNT, you should check with the appropriate academic department for specific degree requirements. You should also seek advising through the College of Education's Student Advising Office in Matthews Hall, Room 105. <http://www.unt.edu/pais/insert/ueduc.htm>

General information on Careers in the Major:

The University of North Texas, College of Education has one of the finest educator preparation programs in the Southwest, earning national recognition from the Association of Teacher Educators. The UNT programs in teacher education are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education [2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20036-1023, telephone (202) 466-7496]. As an accrediting body, NCATE holds high academic standards for excellence in education.

There is a great need for teachers, especially in critical areas such as bilingual, English as a second language (ESL), special education, mathematics and science. That need is expected to increase over the next several years as public school enrollment grows and districts reduce class sizes. More than 82,000 new teachers will be needed by 2008, according to the Texas Workforce Commission.

The successful completion of the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in interdisciplinary studies prepares you to become certified to teach in Texas schools and provides eligibility to apply for teaching credentials in other states. Most states require teacher candidates to pass certification examinations, based on knowledge and skills of both pedagogy and content, before they are granted teaching credentials. In Texas, these tests are called the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES).

UNT's [Career Center](http://careercenter.unt.edu/) can help you prepare to pursue your career. The center has information about jobs and employers. The staff can help you with resume and letter writing, job search strategies and interview preparation. <http://careercenter.unt.edu/>

<http://www.unt.edu/pais/insert/ueduc.htm>

What are some additional websites?

State Board for Educators Certification

ABCteachingJobs

WantToTeach/

MightyMentors

http://www.ed.gov/pubs/FirstYear

DISD Alternative Certification Program

ITeach Texas Online Teacher Certification Program

Region 10 Alternative Certification Program

A +Texas Teachers Alternative Certification Program

ACT * Houston-Dallas Alternative Certification Program

Texas Teaching Fellows Alternative Certification Program

UNT Student Organizations that may interest you.....

Student Government Association

Teaching Fellow/Teaching Assistant Association

Alliance of Black School Educators

Behavior Analysis Student and Alumni Association

Our Next Educators

North Texas Student Music Educators

Kappa Delta Pi

****TO FIND OUT ABOUT MORE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS****

University Union, 216-1

(940)-565-3807

<http://web2.unt.edu/dos/sao/index.cfm>