



Elementary & Special Education

at UW-Madison

EXPLORE: COMMON CAREER PATHS IN THE FIELD

Elementary Classroom Teacher

Lead instruction in core subjects for grades K–9. Build foundational academic skills, foster social-emotional development, and collaborate with communities to create supportive learning environments.

Special Education Teacher

Design and deliver individualized instruction for students with disabilities. Collaborate with general educators, develop and implement IEPs (Individualized Education Programs), and create inclusive learning environments that meet diverse needs.

Dual-Certified Teacher

Teach across both general and special education settings, often co-teaching or providing resource support. This pathway offers flexibility to meet the needs of a wide range of learners within inclusive classrooms.

ESL or Bilingual Education Teacher

Work with multilingual learners to develop English language skills while supporting academic learning. Roles may involve push-in or pull-out instruction, co-teaching in dual language programs, or leading English immersion classrooms.

Early Childhood Educator

Teach pre-kindergarten (4K) and early elementary grades, focusing on early literacy, numeracy, and play-based learning. Collaborate with families and caregivers to support healthy development during a critical learning stage.

Teaching Abroad

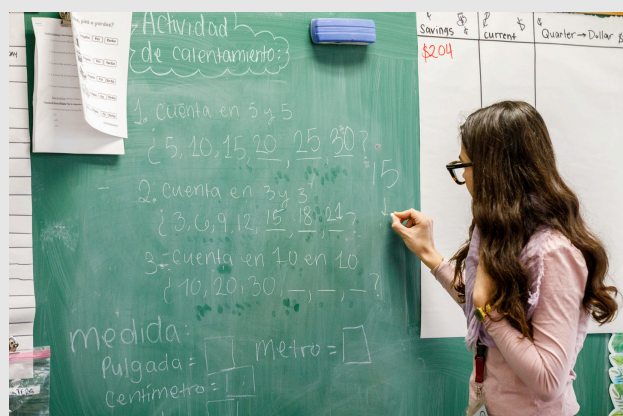
Teach in international schools or English-language programs overseas. Provides opportunities to gain cross-cultural teaching experience and expand global perspectives.

Instructional Coach or Interventionist

Mentor teachers or provide targeted support for students in areas like literacy or math. These roles focus on improving instructional practices and enhancing student outcomes through data-driven interventions.

Leadership in K-12 Education

Take on leadership roles within schools by supporting new teachers, coordinating programs or initiatives, or leading grade-level or departmental teams as a mentor teacher, program coordinator, or team lead.



TOP TRANSFERABLE SKILLS ACROSS CAREER FIELDS

- Collaboration skills
- Communication skills
- Assessment & Data Use
- Professionalism & Ethics
- Planning & Adaptation

GAIN EXPERIENCE THROUGH

- Practicum and Student Teaching
- Part-time Jobs in Schools and Youth Programs
- Internships with Education and Community Orgs
- Volunteering as a Tutor

KEY COURSES TO EXPLORE

- RPSE 300 - Individuals with Disabilities
- C&I 276 - Contemporary Issues in K-12 Schools
- ED PSYCH 301 - How People Learn
- CP 237 - Mental Health, Self-Awareness, and Social Justice: Working in Diverse Communities

GET CONNECTED

- UW-Madison Education Student Organizations and Clubs:
 - Aspiring Educators of Wisconsin
 - Diverse Leaders in Education
- Morgridge Center's Badger Volunteers - Tutoring & Mentoring Programs
- Join **ConnectED Badgers: Arts, Health, and Education** on LinkedIn and interact with alumni, faculty, staff, and peers.



EXPLORE: ITEACHING EMPLOYERS



YOUR GUIDANCE TEAM: MEET YOUR ADVISORS

Scan the QR code to schedule an appointment on Starfish
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