

EDUCATION

We are proud to state that many Lawrentians have chosen a career in education! Typically, 10% to 12% of each graduating class attains licensure. Students who enter Lawrence knowing they want to become a teacher can complete graduation and licensure requirements in four years.

Lawrence believes that the best preparation for teaching is an education in the liberal arts. This liberal arts approach to teacher education results in teachers who think critically and creatively, communicate clearly and persuasively, and take responsibility for their future learning and professional growth. Toward that goal, Lawrence students major in the subject they plan to teach which provides them with in-depth academic expertise in their specific discipline. Lawrence students also take courses across the liberal arts and sciences that provide them with the breadth of knowledge necessary to understand and explain the ideas of one field in relation to another. And, Lawrence students take courses in pedagogy, child development and educational psychology that provide them with the understanding, experience and professional skills needed to be an effective teacher.

Though Lawrence students choose to explore teaching as a career for a variety of reasons, we think that the overwhelming majority of our students are motivated by the desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people; they believe that teaching is an honorable and challenging profession that makes a genuine

contribution to the well-being of their community; and, they are committed to the idea that teachers are engaged in a process of world building even as they teach math or music or history.

Students who are undecided about seeking certification are still encouraged to enroll in education courses. Many Lawrentians enter the certification program late in their academic careers and are still able to complete both their major and certification by graduation.

Students interested in the study of education as a social institution and the relationship between school and society also take courses in the education department. These courses can help prepare students for graduate study in fields such as educational policy, educational psychology, special education, and human and social services, and can provide a foundation for specialization in disciplines such as history, sociology and anthropology, or for careers in the areas of law and public policy.

CURRICULUM

Lawrence does not offer a major in education. However, we introduce students to the study of education as an academic discipline and prepare you professionally to become licensed teachers in the public schools.

You will be required to take at least ten courses in your major area of study and take a seven course sequence from the department of education, which includes:

Psychology of Learning

Sociology of Education

Ethnicity, Cultural Diversity, and Education

Methods in Middle and Secondary Teaching

Foreign Language

Studio Art

Educating All Learners

Student Teaching

Student Teaching Seminar

We provide certification for you to teach at the secondary level (grades 6-12) in nearly every area in which Lawrence offers a major.

If you are interested in teaching art or foreign language, Lawrence offers special field certification for teaching grades K-12. Certification to teach music – choral, grades 6-12; general, grades K-12; or instrumental, grades K-12 – is

available jointly through Lawrence's conservatory of music and the education department.

STUDENT TEACHING

The education department arranges for 18-week student teaching assignments during first term of the senior year within local Fox Cities schools. If you plan to teach in a larger city, you may also choose to student teach in Chicago, through the ACM Urban Education Program.

A 13th-term (the term following graduation) for student teaching, tuition free (\$840 fee), is available for students who have completed all graduation requirements except the semester of student teaching at the end of four years.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

While Lawrence does not have an elementary education program, there are many opportunities offered by our curriculum that will prepare you for a career in elementary education.

You will receive a solid background in whatever major area of study you choose and you will be able to spend time observing elementary classrooms as part of your education course work.

Upon graduation, Lawrence students have elected to continue their studies in either Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) programs or certification programs specifically for elementary education. These programs generally take two years to complete following undergraduate school. It is important to

note that many of the most highly regarded undergraduate elementary education programs take 5 to 6 years to complete, so the time that you spend at Lawrence prior to focusing on elementary education will not set you back and very often will serve to fulfill many of the requirements of an MAT program.

Finally, your experience at Lawrence will set you apart from other job applicants. Many school districts seek teachers with a liberal arts background. Having certification in both secondary education and elementary education will make you more flexible as the needs of schools and education programs evolve.

AFTER LAWRENCE

Many Lawrence graduates are teaching in public and private schools throughout the Midwest and across the nation. Some also serve as school district superintendents, principals, guidance counselors and in other administrative positions. Lawrence-educated teachers are highly regarded by school administrators and have received high recognition and many honors in the field of education. Recent graduates have been admitted to Ph.D. programs in curriculum theory or educational policy at Stanford, UW-Madison, Harvard, the University of Chicago, and the University of Miami.

The education department surveys Lawrence graduates who are teaching, as well as the principals and supervisors of those Lawrence-educated teachers. Lawrence graduates report that, compared to colleagues of similar age/experience, they believe they have been much better prepared by their education courses and by their Lawrence subject area courses for the classes they teach than their colleagues.

When principals were asked to compare Lawrence-educated teachers to other teachers of similar experience, a third were rated within the top 5%, more than half were ranked among the top 10%, nearly three-fourths fell within the top 20%, and virtually all of the Lawrence-prepared teachers were rated in the top 30%. When they were compared to all other teachers, regardless of years of experience, the principals ranked more than half of the Lawrentians in the top 10%, 84% in the top 30%, and 100% in the top half.

PROGRAM CONTACT

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