

Education

Program Highlights

- Over the years, the CSB/SJU education department has built and strengthened relationships with schools to provide prospective teachers with early and continuous field experiences in schools in Central Minnesota and the Minneapolis/St. Paul area schools.
- Prospective education majors and minors begin their field experiences in their first year of college by completing a service learning experience with an organization such as Kidstop or Boys and Girls Club. First year students also complete a week-long "Teacher Shadow" experience in a school of their choice. Together, these opportunities give students a sense of what a career in education may entail.
- In the sophomore year, both prospective education majors and minors complete a clinical experience in an area school, as well as a week-long immersion experience in a Twin Cities school which enrolls a significant portion of its students from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Program Overview

Elementary Education

A major in elementary education leads to general teacher licensure as a teacher of children in grades K-6. Elementary majors may choose to complete courses and clinical experiences leading to a middle school licensure endorsement for grades 5-8 in natural science, world languages (French, German, or Spanish) and other areas.

Secondary and K-12 Teacher Education Programs

A minor in secondary education, when combined with a major in English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, general science, or social science, leads to licensure as a teacher of those disciplines to students in grades 5-12. A minor in secondary education can also support a major in grades 5-12.

K-12 teacher licensure programs are available for content/teaching majors in art, instrumental and vocal music and world languages (French, German and Spanish).

The education department, working with the other academic departments of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, draws on the outcomes of the colleges' liberal arts Common Curriculum to enable our graduates to become strong and effective teachers.

- The CSB/SJU education program provides many opportunities for students to plan and teach lessons to elementary, middle school, and high school students through their pedagogy courses. Elementary education majors complete K-6 pedagogy courses in all subjects within their licensure. Elementary majors who seek a grade 5-8 endorsement also complete a middle level pedagogy course in their chosen specialty. Some examples of elementary pedagogy courses are:

Art Pedagogy
Mathematics Pedagogy
Reading, Writing and Language Pedagogy
Science Pedagogy
Social Studies Pedagogy
Middle Level Pedagogy in Science
Language Pedagogy in French, German or Spanish

For students who choose the secondary (5-12 or K-12) education program, pedagogy courses are specifically intended for their major subject area. For example:

Science Pedagogy (for Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
Social Studies Pedagogy
Mathematics Pedagogy
World Language Pedagogy (for French, German or Spanish majors)

Examples of courses that provide a foundation for pedagogy and practice include:

Introduction to Teaching and Learning in a Diverse World
Human Development: Typical and Exceptional
Educational Psychology

For a complete list of education courses offered at CSB/SJU, please visit our Web site:
<http://www.csbsju.edu/education/academic/academic.htm>

Licensure and Accreditation

The education department of the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), an independent association that reviews and accredits teacher preparation programs throughout the United States. The department and its licensure programs are also approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching. Partner schools hosting our candidates during clinical experiences in the St. Cloud area include:

Kennedy Elementary School, St. Joseph, Minn.
Madison Elementary School, St. Cloud, Minn.
Talahi Elementary School, St. Cloud, Minn.
South Junior High School, St. Cloud, Minn.
Holdingford Elementary School, Holdingford, Minn.
St. Boniface Elementary School, Cold Spring, Minn.

Schools in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area which host prospective candidates' immersion experiences include:

Risen Christ Elementary School, Minneapolis, Minn.
San Miguel Middle School, Minneapolis, Minn.
Expo Elementary School, Minneapolis, Minn.
North View Junior High School, Brooklyn Park, Minn.
Park Center High School, Brooklyn Park, Minn.
Richfield High School, Richfield, Minn.
Cooper High School, Robbinsdale, Minn.

Study Abroad

Approximately 60 percent of elementary education majors and secondary education minors choose to study abroad, participating in one of the many programs offered by CSB/SJU. During the Study Abroad Program in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, many students work in the classrooms at the Pendla School. The Pendla Primary School is located in a primarily black township near Port Elizabeth. Since forming a relationship with the school, the CSB/SJU Education Club has sponsored a very successful fundraising initiative to assist the school and its students with teaching materials, classroom supplies, and books.

"I think one main reason that education students from CSB/SJU are well regarded candidates is that beginning with the first semester of education coursework our students are in schools working with veteran teachers. These practical experiences continue and build throughout the program, so students leave here as strong applicants for teaching positions. As one metro-area principal recently remarked, 'Whatever you are doing up there in your program, keep on doing it.'"

Dr. Michael Borka, assistant professor of education,
CSB/SJU

Faculty

Karen Bengtson

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Michael Berndt

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Ph.D., University of Minnesota

Lois Wedl, OSB

Ph.D., Ohio University

“When I look back on my South African experience, it is the smiling faces of the students at Pendla that linger the longest. The simplest, yet most profound, lesson I learned while working at Pendla is that no matter where you are in the world, kids are kids! They all have an enormous amount of love to give and simply need someone to give it back ... I feel beyond blessed that I had the opportunity to be this person, even if just for a little while. Every Monday as I would walk out the door of my 2nd grade classroom, I would turn around and blow my kids a kiss and, without missing a beat, they would send 35 back my way. This image is one that I will carry with me forever and a day. Though we didn't speak the same language, we were somehow able to communicate ... and I realized more than anything that it is true what they say— love needs no words!”

Anne Vaught, an Elementary Education graduate of CSB who studied abroad in South Africa.
