About the Program

Slippery Rock University is one of the best places to learn about teaching young children as reflected by the feedback received from program graduates.

“I chose SRU because of the sense of family you feel when stepping on to campus. The education department is the best because of the attention you receive from your professors and the years of experience they have to share with their students.” - Megan Fredland Early Childhood/Special Education major

“I do not think that you could find a better Education program than at Slippery Rock University. They start preparing you from the minute you walk in as a freshman or transfer student, and continue until the minute you walk off the stage at graduation. You are placed in field experience as a sophomore and continue until you are prepared to have your own classroom. The preparation process is interesting, informative, and fun. The professors know you by name and help you inside and outside the classroom. I wouldn’t trade my experience here for the world.” - Sara Kucenski Early Childhood and Special Education Major

“I have been here (at my job) for about a month now and cannot even begin to describe how grateful I am for the education I received from Slippery Rock University’s College of Education. Sure, things are overwhelming and challenging but thanks to some extraordinary professors, experience, and opportunities I feel prepared and ready to take on this challenge. I’ve been using my knowledge, skills and disposition to be my very best for my six wonderful students.” - Tesin Gnalian Slippery Rock University College of Education, ’14

Career Opportunities

Elementary/early childhood education majors who successfully complete all requirements in the teaching program are eligible to apply for Pennsylvania certification in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. SRU graduates are highly qualified to be effective teachers in a variety of educational settings:

- Public schools
- Private schools
- Pre-K programs
- Child care programs
- International teaching
- Head Start
- Urban schools
- Early intervention specialist
- Therapeutic staff support

Additionally, earning a degree at SRU provides you with an excellent foundation for graduate studies.

Department Mission

As a community of professional educators, we commit to developing the highest quality teachers who will become exemplary citizens and add value to the world they will inhabit; and who can teach each child in our global, contemporary society. Of central importance is our commitment to preparing caring teachers, who have the knowledge, skills and dispositions to foster developmentally appropriate learning environments; who honor and respect diverse families and communities; and who demonstrate effective teaching grounded in educational research.

The early childhood education department is proud to have earned the following accreditations:

- The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
- Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States
- National Association for the Education of Young Children

Majors / Concentrations

- Early Childhood Education (PK-4) (BSED)
- International Education
- Special Education (K-8)/ Early Childhood Education (PK-4) (BSED)
- International Education
Student Teaching and Professional Development Schools

The SRU early childhood education department has collaborative agreements with multiple school districts to form a Professional Development School Network. The central goal of the PDS Network is to impact the learning of Pre-K-4 students. Together we combine our resources to positively influence the learning and experiences of all stakeholders—SRU teacher candidates and faculty, school district students, their families and faculty. Teacher candidates who complete their field experiences and/or student teaching in a Professional Development School have unique opportunities to engage in meaningful school activities that enhance their resume and portfolio. All student teachers complete an Action Research project as a capstone experience.

- General Student Teaching
- Professional Development Schools
- Student Teaching in Ireland (fall)
- Student Teaching in Mexico (spring)
- Urban Student Teaching

Student Past Events and Experiences

- Working one-on-one with student intervention programs
- Service-learning activities
- Various educational events such as After school Tutoring Program, Morning Reading Club, Grandparents Day, Math Mania, Evening of the Arts, Family Math or Literacy Night, and Family Involvement Events focused on Science, Technology, Engineer and Mathematics

Opportunities for Education Majors

- Autism Speaks
- Early Childhood Club
- Kappa Delta Pi (Honorary for all Education Majors)
- National Council of Teachers of Math
- National Science Teacher Association Student Chapter
- Professor Protégé Program
- Residing in the Education Living-Learning Community
- Study Abroad Programs
- Student Pennsylvania State Education Association
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Student Affiliate

For more information:
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