**MAJORS**
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) (BSED)*
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) (BSED) with a concentration in International Education*
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) and Special Education (K-8) (BSED) dual certification*

*All candidates completing this program and student teaching are eligible to receive Pennsylvania certification after achieving a passing or qualifying score on Pennsylvania Department of Education required exam(s). If you are interested in teaching in another state, please contact the Department of Education in that state.

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT SRU**

Through the early childhood curriculum our students encounter a blend of rich theory and robust field experiences. Based on principles of child development, developmental-appropriate practice, learning and pedagogical theories, students apply their knowledge to educate the physical, social and cognitive skills of children in pre-K through grade four in various educational settings. Students with specific interests can choose to concentrate their studies in a variety of fields, including, but not restricted to, special education, math, aquatics, psychology, a modern language or dance. We also provide a strong basis for graduate studies.

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**WHY CHOOSE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT SRU?**

1. **Professor Protégé Program**: As a first-year student, you may apply to work closely with a faculty member in the College of Education on a project or program and receive a stipend and an iPad.

2. **Experienced faculty**: You will be taught by caring, full-time faculty members, not graduate assistants, who bring real-life experience to enhance your learning experience. They are available to guide you on your journey in becoming a highly qualified educator.

3. **Action research**: During a student-teaching semester, you will collaborate with a cooperating teacher to introduce and measure a different teaching method to impact students’ learning, as well as formally present project and results to SRU faculty and educators.

4. **Support and guidance**: SRU has a strong history of teacher education throughout Pennsylvania, nationally and internationally, with a strong network of in-service teachers and administrators.

5. **Accreditation**: Our program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Pennsylvania Department of Education and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Accreditation means that our program meets or exceeds the industry standards developed by experts in the field.
STUDENT TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES
SRU Early Childhood Education students have completed student teaching at various locations including:

- Slippery Rock Area School District
- Butler Area School District
- New Castle Area School District
- Laurel School District
- Sharon School District
- Pittsburgh Public School District
- Karn City School District
- Various western PA School Districts
- Schools in Ireland and Mexico

CAREER OUTCOMES
While many early childhood education majors will continue their education after earning their bachelor’s degrees, graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Educator - Kindergarten, Moon Area School District
- Educator - Elementary, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- Educator - Reading teacher, Louisa Public Schools in VA
- Educator - 3rd grade, Pine-Richland School District

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
- Early Childhood Club
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Lambda Epsilon Delta
- National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
- National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)
- National Council for Teachers of Math (NCTM)
- Student PA State Education Association (S-PSEA)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Marissa Snider – B.S. early childhood education/special education ’17
Kindergarten teacher at Union Mill Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia
“Two professors in the education department that made my time at SRU something to remember were Dr. Badgett and Dr. Snyder. Dr. Badgett was my adviser for the first three years of college before she retired. She was patient, loving and always made me feel so special. During my senior year, I became a huge fan of Dr. Snyder after spending four weeks as his student teacher in Mexico. It was great to have spent such an amazing time with him on the trip. I will never forget these two amazing people.”

Sam Placezek – B.S. early childhood education/special education ’16
Kindergarten teacher at Gary D. Wright Elementary School in Hampshire, Illinois
“During my sophomore year, I took a class with Dr. Amodei and actually ended up asking her to be my adviser. She guided me through my next few years and for that I am grateful. We are still in touch with one another, and, no matter what, I am able to go to her with questions and for guidance.”

Hayley Filegar – B.S. early childhood education/special education ’15
Third grade teacher at E.K. Powe Elementary School
“To this day, Dr. Zane is someone who I look up to and often go to for professional advice or to share my own experiences as a teacher. The faculty in the Education Department at SRU are high-quality and committed to helping students succeed.”