

EARLY CHILDHOOD PK-4

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



MAJORS

- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) (BSED)*
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) and Special Education (K-12) (BSED) dual certification*
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-4) (BSED) with a concentration in International Education*
- Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) and Special Education (K-12) BSED dual certification with a concentration in International Education

Slippery Rock University (SRU) is required by the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement and US Department of Education to notify you whether our program meets the academic licensure/certification requirements in another state. All jurisdictions have their own requirements for licensure/ certification eligibility. SRU is approved to offer programs that may lead to licensure/certification in Pennsylvania. We are unable to determine our program's eligibility in states other than PA. Please review the licensing board contact resource at www.sru.edu/licensure-certification to seek guidance on the requirements of licensure in your home state or where you would like to practice professionally. Note that state requirements are subject to change at any time and without notice.

SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

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WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEGREE?

Early childhood professionals have an array of career options. Teaching young children in various educational settings that may include public schools, private schools, non-profit organizations, international schools, Head Start and PreK classrooms. Many students with an early childhood degree continue into graduate programs and take advantage of testing options to acquire additional certifications such as 5th to 6th grade, middle level specializations, and master's level degrees in special education, reading specialists, etc. Additionally, many opportunities are available in administration, quality rating improvement system consultantships, leadership, and advocacy. The possibilities are vast, and the need for highly qualified, dedicated early childhood professionals has never been greater.

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.

WHY CHOOSE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AT SRU?

- 1. 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.
- 2. Comprehensive Curriculum:** We provide a meticulously structured curriculum to provide in-depth pedagogical knowledge and skill sets that equip you to excel in diverse educational settings.
- 3. History:** SRU began as the Slippery Rock Normal School in 1889 with the sole purpose of preparing teachers. Throughout SRU's evolution, we remain committed to teacher education, and have built strong networks with professional educators throughout Pennsylvania, nationally, and internationally.
- 4. Accreditation:** We exceed industry standards by being accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).
- 5. Hands-on Learning Opportunities:** Beyond theory, our program offers multiple field experiences in a variety of educational settings to ensure you gain practical insights and confidence early on in your studies.

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
- Karns City School District
- Various western PA School Districts
- Schools in Ireland, Mexico and Spain

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: International honors society in education
- 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

Rachael Nizialek Early childhood education, '19

First Grade Teacher, Ortona Elementary School, Daytona, FL

"During my time at SRU I was lucky enough to have Dr. Tours as a professor in multiple classes, as well as going on an abroad trip with her to Spain with the College of Education. She is someone who I have gone to for advice, even after graduation. The passion and care that the faculty in the Education Department show to their students is inspiring and made me strive to be the best teacher I can be. Even after graduation and becoming a teacher myself, I have frequently looked back on and used what I learned during my time at SRU. The faculty do an amazing job of making sure we really are prepared for what teaching throws at you because it is challenging but the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced."

Domonje Walker Early childhood/Special education, '18

Third grade teacher, Twin Rivers Elementary, McKeesport, PA

"During my studies at SRU, two professors that had a significant impact on my educational experience were Dr. Tours and Dr. Vetere. Dr. Vetere was a phenomenal professor and advisor. She was always there to listen and went above and beyond to guide me on my journey of becoming an educator. During my last semester at SRU, I met Dr. Tours who was my supervisor for student teaching. She was such an inspiring person who pushed me to do more than I thought I ever could. What stuck out to me the most was the way she critiqued me but in the same breath praised me. I love that Dr. Tours and I still keep in touch to this day! No matter the time or day, I know that I can still call on her for wisdom and guidance."my internship, and my internship is the reason I got my job."

DEPARTMENT:

McKay Education Building
Michelle Amodei chairperson
michelle.amodei@sru.edu
724-738-4758

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sru.edu/majors

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

North Hall Welcome Center
asktherock@sru.edu
724.738.2015