

CAREER GUIDE

EDUCATION: A CAREER AND A CALLING



NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

IN EACH OF THE PAST 13 YEARS, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
HAS **PREPARED MORE TEACHERS FOR CREDENTIALING**
THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE INSTITUTION IN CALIFORNIA.

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Why education?

Education is a rewarding profession and teachers often express a deep sense of pleasure in their work.¹ This is no surprise, as teaching has such a profound influence on so many lives. Most of us can recall a time when a teacher inspired us and helped us see beyond our hurdles.

Teachers are special people with a unique way of looking at the world. Professor Richard Leblanc, award-winning teacher, puts it this way, *“Good teaching is as much about passion as it is about reason. It’s about caring for your craft, having a passion for it, and conveying that passion to everyone—most importantly to your students.”*²

Do you have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge? Do you enjoy the creative challenge of problem solving? Would you like a profession that really matters? If you seek knowledge and want to share that with others, education could be the field for you.³

Teachers inspire, motivate and encourage students, introducing them to new ways of thinking and new ways of seeing themselves in the world. They take pride in creating a challenging, nurturing environment for their students while providing a supportive environment for learning. Teachers tend to be warm, approachable, enthusiastic and caring, setting high expectations for their students and inspiring them with a passion to do more.⁴

“Good teaching
is as much about
PASSION
as it is about reason.”

WHY BECOME A TEACHER?

Why is now a great time to become a teacher?

Let's face it; teaching hasn't always gotten the respect it deserves. And budget cuts over the years have made it tough for many teachers to secure work. Reports suggest that respect has declined between teachers, administrators, students and parents over the years.⁵ But that is shifting, and education is now seen as key to the vitality of our nation and its economy.

The fact is, the need for good teachers is now greater than ever. In 2010, a presidential mandate was set to improve the quality of education and to increase access for students. At the same time, new Common Core Standards have been adopted by most states, putting a greater focus on the quality of education. Our population is growing and many "baby boomer" teachers are retiring, so new teachers are in demand.

A presidential mandate for education

President Obama has stated that in order for America to lead in the 21st century, we need to provide every child with a complete and competitive education.⁶

The President's reforms are centered on four key areas:

- Higher standards and better assessments to help students succeed in college and the workplace
- Ambitious efforts to recruit, prepare, develop, and advance good teachers and principals
- Smarter data systems to measure student success and to improve instruction
- A national effort to turn around our lowest-achieving schools⁷

To fill the skilled jobs of tomorrow we need to invest in a world-class education system today. To do this, we need to keep and grow the number of good teachers in the classroom.

The Common Core Standards

The Common Core Standards were developed to guide teachers in what students are should learn to gain the skills and knowledge needed to enter college or the workforce.⁸

According to a 2013 survey “Teacher Perspectives on the Common Core” conducted by Education Week, many teachers approve of the new Common Core Standards. The standards encourage students to think, persuade and communicate rather than just fill in blanks on tests.⁹

Although the standards establish what students must learn, it’s the teachers like you that will tailor instruction to the needs of your students. To prepare for this, some teachers will seek out more education for themselves. If you’re one of these teachers, you are not alone.

A wave of retiring baby boomers

A 2009 report entitled “Learning Teams: Creating What’s Next” found that more than 50 percent of the nation’s teachers and principals were baby boomers. During the next four years the nation’s schools were poised to lose a third of their most accomplished teachers to retirement. By 2019, more than half of today’s teachers will be gone.¹⁰

With more than half of U.S. teachers set to retire in the next decade, it’s estimated that we’ll need roughly two million new teachers by 2023. New teachers entering the market as well as those with experience will be in high demand to fill these positions. The case for a career in teaching is now stronger than ever before.¹¹

“EDUCATION
is increasingly seen
as key to the
vitality of our nation
and its economy.”

What is the job outlook for educators?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014 – 2015, job growth for teachers is expected to increase by 12 percent between 2012 and 2022.¹² It's expected that 500,000 kindergarten, elementary, middle and high school teachers will be hired by 2018.¹³

An educator's life one of variety, and as students change, so must teachers. Many of today's students have never lived in a world without technology or the Internet. Teachers must understand modern methodologies for working with these new digital natives.

Along with more digitally savvy students, the growing diversity of the US population will influence the field of education. Many American students don't count English as their first language,¹⁴ so teaching them requires special skills. Teaching is a career in which the teacher must also be a student in order to do the job well.

If you're interested in a career in education, it's not all about teaching. Other areas of education include:

Educational Administration

Educational administrators and managers are the elementary, middle, and high school principals that plan, direct, and coordinate the academic, administrative and related activities of their schools. They guide operations and promote an efficient, proficient, responsible and progressive culture.¹⁵

Teacher Education

Kindergarten and elementary school teachers prepare students for future schooling by teaching them the basics. High school teachers teach lessons and skills that students will need to attend college and to enter the job market. Instructional technologists are teachers with special training to prepare students in using the latest information and telecommunication technologies.¹⁶

Educational Counseling

School counselors help students gain knowledge and skills appropriate for their level. They provide academic and college counseling for students and help them cope with problems and concerns. School counselors sometimes offer guidance to students that may be the first in their family to go to college or other special circumstances.¹⁷

School Psychology

School psychologists diagnose and treat mental issues, including learning disabilities and cognitive, behavioral, and emotional problems. They use individual, child, family and group therapies in their work. They also design and apply behavior modification programs.¹⁸

Special Education

Special education teachers work with students who have learning, mental, emotional or physical disabilities. With students who have mild or moderate disabilities, special educators will use lessons and strategies that are modified to meet the students' needs. For students with severe disabilities, special educators teach basic life skills, such as how to respond to questions and follow directions.¹⁹

MORE THAN **25%** OF ALL
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED
School District principals
are National University
alumni.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Why pursue a degree in educational administration?

Elementary, middle, and high school educational administrators, or principals, direct faculty and other school staff and manage the day-to-day operations of their schools. They set goals and objectives and evaluate their school's progress toward meeting them.²⁰

Principals supervise teachers and other school staff and often discipline students and help manage student behavior. They assess the school's progress toward government standards and are responsible for budget and finances. They advocate on behalf of the school to see that it has necessary financial support and that the school is safe for students and staff.²⁰

Administrators also oversee school operations from building maintenance and cafeteria services to academic standards. They make sure that resources are available to meet those standards, and they serve as the public face of their school.

The job of a principal varies by the size of the school and the school district. Large districts may have coordinators to help with the workload, but their principals have less flexibility and need to follow rules and guidelines set at the district level. Those in small school districts need to do all of these duties themselves, but have more flexibility to try new ideas.²⁰

Postsecondary education administrators oversee student services, academics, and research at colleges and universities. Their job duties vary depending on the area of the college they manage, such as admissions, the office of the registrar or student affairs.

Postsecondary education administrators who work in admissions, usually called admissions counselors, decide whether potential students should be admitted to the school.

Postsecondary education administrators who work in the registrar's office maintain student and course records.

Postsecondary education administrators who work in student affairs are responsible for a variety of nonacademic school functions, such as student athletics and activities. Postsecondary education administrators in student affairs can specialize in student activities, housing and residential life or multicultural affairs. They plan events, advising student organizations and will assign students rooms and roommates. Education administrators who specialize in multicultural affairs plan events to celebrate different cultures and manage multicultural centers on campus.

Other **postsecondary education administrators** are **provosts** or **academic deans**. Provosts help develop academic policies, participate in faculty appointments and tenure decisions and manage budgets. Academic deans direct and coordinate the activities of their school.²¹

What is the job outlook for educational administrators?

Employment of elementary, middle and high school principals is projected to grow by six percent from 2012 to 2022, slower than the average for all occupations. Growth will vary by enrollment numbers and by region.²⁰

The field of postsecondary education administrators is expected to grow by 15 percent from 2012 to 2025. The number of people attending postsecondary school is expected to grow as people seek higher education and skills to meet their career goals. As more people enter colleges and universities, more postsecondary education administrators will be needed to serve their needs.²¹

Principals typically need a master's degree in education administration or leadership and usually need some experience as a teacher.²⁰

Who hires educational administrators?

- Elementary and secondary schools
- Junior colleges
- Colleges and universities
- Technical and trade schools
- Religious organizations
- Private schools and colleges

43% OF ALL
Poway Unified School
District **PRINCIPALS** are
National University alumni.

TEACHING

Why pursue a degree in teaching?

Kindergarten and elementary school teachers prepare younger students for future schooling by teaching them the basics. High school teachers help prepare students for life after graduation by teaching lessons and skills they'll need to attend college and enter the job market.

Teachers work in public and private schools. Many use nights and weekends to prepare lessons and grade papers, and many don't teach during the summer, so they can pursue other interests. Many teachers love the flexibility of the year-round schedule.

Teachers may work with an entire class or may break the class into smaller groups that then work on assignments together. From spending time with students and grading their assignments, teachers are able to monitor progress and share their discoveries with parents. They often work with individual students to challenge them, help them overcome weaknesses, and prepare them for standardized tests. By establishing good classroom rules, teachers show students how to behave both in and out of the classroom.

Teachers often act as coaches to help students learn and apply important concepts. Many use a hands-on approach and use props to help students understand abstract concepts, solve problems and develop critical thinking skills.

Kindergarten and elementary school teachers generally teach kindergarten through fourth or fifth grade. In some schools they may teach sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. They must have at least a bachelor's degree, and public school teachers need a state-issued certification or license.¹²

High school teachers teach lessons and skills that students need to attend college and to enter the job market. High school teachers must have a bachelor's degree. Public school teachers must have a state-issued certification or license, which may require an academic background in the subject(s) they will be certified to teach.²²

Post-secondary teachers work in public and private colleges and universities, professional schools, junior or community colleges, and career and vocational schools. Postsecondary teachers usually need a Ph.D., though a master's degree may be enough for some community colleges. Work experience is required for technical and trade schools.²³

Instructional technologists have a master's degree in training and instruction of information and telecommunication technologies. Instructional technology is a relatively new field and its graduates are in demand because they have skills and knowledge that are useful in a wide range of settings.²⁴

What is the job outlook for teachers?

The field of kindergarten and elementary school teachers is expected to grow by 12 percent from 2012 to 2022.¹² Employment of high school teachers is projected to grow by only six percent in the same decade,²² while that of postsecondary teachers is projected to grow 19 percent.²³

Who hires teachers?

- Elementary and secondary schools
- Religious organizations
- Vocational schools
- Private schools

Almost half of the San Diego County middle and high schools DESIGNATED AS California Distinguished Schools in 2013 have principals who attended **NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.**

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING

Why pursue a degree in educational counseling?

School counselors help students develop social skills, while career counselors help people choose a career or educational program.¹⁷

Elementary school counselors help students learn decision-making and study skills to be successful in their social and academic lives. They meet with parents or guardians to discuss the child's strengths, weaknesses, special needs or behavioral issues.

Middle school counselors work with families to help students develop and achieve career and academic goals. They help students develop the skills and strategies necessary to succeed academically and socially.

High school counselors advise students in academic and career plans. Many help students with personal problems and assist them in choosing classes and planning for life after graduation. Counselors also help students choose and apply for college, training programs, financial aid and apprenticeships.

Career counselors work with clients at various stages in their careers. Some work in colleges to help students choose a major and then determine what jobs they are qualified for with their degrees. These counselors also engage with working people, creating career improvement plans and advising them about career changes.

What is the job outlook for educational counselors?

The field of school and career counselors is expected to grow at an average rate of 12 percent from 2012 to 2022. School counselors can work in public and private schools, while career counselors will find jobs in colleges, government career centers and private practice.¹⁷

Most school counselors have a credential and a master's degree in school counseling or a related field like school psychology, marriage and family therapy or professional counseling.¹⁷

Who hires educational counselors?

Students who earn a master's degree in educational counseling may find careers as:

- Academic advisor
- Admissions advisor
- Athletic academic advisor
- Career/guidance counselor
- Counselor – disabled student services
- Counselor – financial aid
- Counselor – international students
- Counselor – multi-cultural services
- Counselor – psychological services
- Learning specialist
- Residential life coordinator
- Student services/affairs coordinator
- School counselor

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2013 CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS
have principals who are
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Why pursue a degree in school psychology?

School psychologists diagnose and treat disorders like learning disabilities or cognitive, behavioral, and emotional problems. School psychologists will use individual, child, family and group therapies in their work and may design behavior modification programs.¹⁸

School psychologists work with teachers, parents, administrators, and community mental health providers. They take on school-wide mental health activities, helping to create safe and healthy classrooms. To do their jobs, school psychologists research effective teaching methods, behavior management, alternative school programs and mental health interventions.

School psychologists evaluate students and work directly with families through counseling, support groups and skills training. In many schools, psychologists will serve on teams, addressing the needs of at-risk students or those with disabilities. Psychologists will explain the evaluations to parents, teachers and others to better serve the student's needs.²⁵

School psychologists focus on more than the academic struggles of a student. They also decide whether a child qualifies for special services, diagnose mental disorders and learning disabilities, and help treat behavioral and emotional problems. School psychologists generally work within school systems, although some also work in private practice, at local mental health agencies or in residential treatment centers.²⁶

What is the job outlook for school psychologists?

The field of school psychology is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022 as there is a growing recognition of students with learning disabilities, special needs and behavioral issues.²⁷

Most states require three years of graduate school training, including a 1200-hour internship, to become a credentialed school psychologist.²⁶ Job prospects for school psychologists are best for those with a doctoral degree in an applied specialty and a specialist or doctoral degree in school psychology.²⁷

Who hires school psychologists?

School psychologists can find employment in:

- Public schools
- Private schools
- Private practice
- Mental health agencies
- Residential treatment centers
- Community agencies
- Hospitals and clinics
- Universities

IN 2013
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI
lead **HALF** of the **TOP 5%**
of **San Diego County** schools.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Why pursue a degree in special education?

Special education teachers work with students who have learning, mental, emotional and physical disabilities. If indicated, they teach students skills necessary to live independently. Special education teachers need strong organization skills, flexibility, patience and personal responsibility to be successful.²⁸

Teaching students with disabilities can be rewarding, it can be emotionally and physically draining. Special education teachers are often challenged with heavy workloads and administrative tasks.²⁸

Increased awareness means that kids with special needs are now identified sooner. Laws emphasizing training and employment for people with disabilities will lead to job growth as well as special services to help these children meet new higher testing standards. As more schools have inclusive classrooms, special education teachers will assist general education teachers in working with students who have disabilities.¹⁹

What is the job outlook for special education teachers?

The field of special education teachers is expected to grow by six percent from 2012 to 2022. Growth will happen with increasing enrollment and demand for special education services.¹⁹

Special education teachers in public schools must have a bachelor's degree and a state-issued certification or license. Teachers in private schools need a bachelor's degree, but may not be required to have a state license or certification.¹⁹

Who hires special education teachers?

Special educators work in public and private schools as well as homes or hospitals. Some work with parents, teaching them and their children skills in the home. Other employers include:

- Public magnet and charter schools
- Private religious and secular schools
- Residential facilities for special education students
- Childcare centers
- Hospitals
- Special education classrooms
- Inclusive classrooms

Children with special needs are now **IDENTIFIED SOONER,** increasing the need for **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS.**

Standing before a room full of students takes courage. Whether you are new to teaching, a seasoned pro, or are moving up through the administrative ranks, you need a partner in education. At National University, you've come to the right place.

National University offers the following programs in our School of Education:

TEACHER EDUCATION

DEGREES

- Associate of Arts Major in Early Childhood Education (AAECE)
- Associate of Arts Major in School-Site Paraprofessional
- Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education With Nevada Elementary Licensure**
- Bachelor of Arts in English Education with Nevada Secondary Licensure**
- Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences with a Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential*
- Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education with Nevada Secondary Licensure**
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Science with a Preliminary Single Subject Credential*
- Bachelor of Arts Major in Early Childhood Development with a California Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential*
- Bachelor of Arts Major in English with a California Preliminary Single Subject Credential*
- Bachelor of Arts Major in Interdisciplinary Studies with a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential*
- Bachelor of Arts Major in Spanish with a Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential
- Bachelor of Arts with Major in Early Childhood Education
- Master of Arts in Education
- Master of Arts in Teaching
- Master of Education in Secondary Education with Nevada Licensure**
- Master of Education with a Preliminary Multiple or Single Subjects Teaching Credential and Internship Option*
- Master of Education With Nevada Elementary Licensure**
- Master of Science Educational and Instructional Technology

CERTIFICATES

- Graduate Certificate in Best Practices
- Graduate Certificate in E-Teaching & Learning
- Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education
- Graduate Certificate in Educational Technology
- Graduate Certificate in National Board Certified Teacher Leadership
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching Mathematics
- National Board Certified Teacher Leadership Certificate
- Reading Certificate (Added Authorization)*

CREDENTIALS

- Clear Multiple or Single Subject Credential*
- Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program with Internship Option (California) Credential*
- Preliminary Single Subjects Teaching Credential with Internship Option*

* These programs are offered in California only.

** These programs are offered in Nevada only.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION & SCHOOL COUNSELING/PSYCHOLOGY

DEGREES

- [Master of Science in Applied School Leadership*](#)
In partnership with participating California County Offices of Education
- [Master of Science in Educational Administration with Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Option*](#)
- [Master of Science in Educational Counseling*](#)
- [Master of Science in Higher Education Administration](#)
- [Master of Science in Innovative School Leadership](#)
- [Master of Science in Instructional Leadership](#)
- [Master of Science in School Psychology with PPSP Credential*](#)

CERTIFICATES

- [Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis](#)
- [National Board Certification](#)

CREDENTIALS

- [Administrative Services Credential Programs](#)
- [Pupil Personnel Services Credential Programs](#)
- [Clear Administrative Services Credential*](#)
- [Preliminary Administrative Services Credential*](#)
- [Pupil Personnel Services Credential School Counseling*](#)
- [University Internship Credential Program for Pupil Personnel Services School Counseling*](#)

SPECIAL EDUCATION

DEGREES

- [Master of Science in Special Education*](#)
- [Master of Science in Special Education with Nevada Licensure in Special Education and Endorsement for Generalist Resource Room**](#)

CERTIFICATES

- [Graduate Certificate in Autism](#)

CREDENTIALS

- [Clear Level II Education Specialist Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing*](#)
- [Clear Level II Education Specialist Mild/Moderate*](#)
- [Clear Level II Education Specialist Moderate/Severe Disabilities*](#)
- [Early Childhood Special Education Add-on Authorization*](#)
- [Education Specialist Credential Programs](#)
- [Preliminary Education Specialist Authorization Teaching Credential*](#)

Why choose National University for your education degree?

- National University has prepared more California teachers for credentialing than any other single institution of higher education for the past 13 years
- National University ranks first nationally in granting master's in education degrees to Hispanics
- Since the 1994 – 95 Academic Year, the School of Education, 85 of our graduates have been recognized as Teachers of the Year in nine counties in California, eight of which were named State Teacher of the Year, and one was named National Teacher of the Year

CONTACT US

to find out what you can do with an education degree from National University:

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EMAIL: advisor@nu.edu

ONLINE: <http://www.nu.edu/OurPrograms/SchoolOfEducation.html>

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