



Alternatives to Teaching

DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY

CAREER CENTER



WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN EDUCATION DEGREE BESIDES TEACHING?

Did you know that you can do more with a teaching degree than teach in a traditional classroom? Earning an education degree teaches many valuable skills, such as organization, planning, social skills, critical thinking, problem solving, and management. All of these prepare individuals for a wide variety of career options.

Consider the following questions as you reflect on potential career pathways:

1. Which skills do you find most valuable that you would like to apply in a different area?

- Training
- Advising
- Leading
- Organizing
- Developing programs
- Mentoring
- Researching
- Writing
- Innovating
- Reaching out to community
- Advocacy
- Public speaking
- Personnel coordination
- Working with children

2. What level of additional training or continued education are you willing to pursue?

- No additional education
- Technical training
- Certification program
- Graduate school

3. What are some short term and long term things you can do in preparation for your transition?

- Research
- Job shadow
- Volunteer
- Intern

4. What aspect of traditional teaching did not work for you?

- Job conditions/benefits
- Shift in interest
- Change of work values
- Different expectations

5. What environment or specialty can you see yourself working in?

- Schools
- Nonprofit
- Government
- Hospitals
- Parks and recreation
- For profit

AREAS AND RELATED CAREER ROLES

1. First scan the following “Skill/Interest” (ex. Teaching/Training) bold categories and circle any skills and specific careers that attract you to the education profession.

2. Use the blank space on the right for personal reflection and to consider the following questions:
 - What appeals to you about your selected skills and careers?
 - What do you already know about your selected skills and careers?
 - What do you want to know about your selected skills and careers?

Teaching/Training	
Private Tutor (personal, online, distance learning)	
ESL Instructor	
Overseas Teacher	
Prison Instructor/Instructional Officer	
Assistant/Associate Professor	
Riding Therapy Instructor	
Environment Education Officer	
Computer Trainer	
Fitness Instructor	
After School Instructor	
Health and Wellness Educator	
Child Life Specialist*	
Adult Education Instructor	
Recreation Instructor	
Life Skills Instructor	
Driving Instructor	
Advising/Counseling	
Career/Educational Guidance Advisor	
Admissions Specialist	
Special Needs Recreational Therapist	
Child Psychotherapist*	
Social Worker/Community Counselor*	
Family Reunification Specialist	
Family Support Specialist	
Child Welfare Specialist	
Crisis Intervention Specialist	
Occupational Therapist*	
Crisis Line Worker	
Nutritionist*	
Speech and Language Pathologist*	

Leadership/Management	
Government/Administrative Officer	
Dean of Students	
Principal/Superintendent*	
Fitness Center Manager	
Communications Manager	
Executive Director/CEO*	
Team Leader	
Working With Youth	
Youth Service Worker	
Recreational Worker	
Teen Parent Specialist	
Child Activities Instructor	
Camp Counselor	
Adoption Specialist*	
Coordinating/Organization	
Event Planner	
Instructional Coordinator	
Volunteer Coordinator	
Education/Social Services Coordinator	
Recreational Director	
Manager of Special Projects	
Community Outreach Specialist	
Resource Coordinator	
Certification Coordinator	
Residence Hall Director	
Program Development	
Curriculum Specialist	
Camp Director	
After-School Program Director	
Health Promotion Specialist	
Program Coordinator	
College and Career Program Manager	
Entrepreneurship Program Manager	

Mentorship/Coaching/Engagement	
Coach	
Community/Adult Educator	
Health Trainer	
Youth Mentor	
Youth Advocate	
Research/Evaluation/Analytical	
Librarian	
Language Specialist/Translator	
Historian	
Director of Quality Improvement	
Intake Coordinator	
Data Analyst	
Evaluation Manager	
Policy Analyst	
Archivist	
Writing/Editing	
Textbook/Education Resource Editor	
Publisher	
Columnist	
Reporter	
Author (children's books)	
Grant Writer	
Technical Writer	
Creativity/Innovation	
Museum Curator	
Teaching Artist (visual, literary, performing arts)	
Community Arts Coordinator	
Illustrator (children's books)	
Acting Instructor	
Choreographer/Dance Instructor	
Family and Consumer Scientist	
Culinary Arts Specialist	
Director of Community and Cultural Programs	

Advocacy/Outreach	
Probation Officer	
Missionary Worker	
Community Support Specialist	
Prevention and Outreach Specialist	
Advocacy and Community Engagement Coordinator	
Youth Outreach Coordinator	
Public Speaking/Persuasion	
Motivational Speaker	
Lecturer	
Tour Guide	
Historic Site Administrator	
Advertising/Sales Representative	
Fundraiser/Development Officer	
Marketing Manager	
Corporate Recruiter	
Donor Relations Specialist	
Public Relations Specialist*	
Community Human Resources	
Human Resource Generalist	
Customer Care Specialist	
Manager of Communications	
Benefits Administrator	
Talent Acquisition Recruiter	

**denotes that additional post-graduate education is required*

Note: The careers listed in each section from pp.2-5 are only a sample of careers that utilize these skills and areas and are meant to be a starting point for your career exploration.

Digging Into Details

Use the sample template below as a guide for any career roles you choose.

Career Profile for “Instructional Coordinator”

Description

- Instructional coordinators decide what should be taught in schools, select teaching materials, and train teachers.

Core Tasks

- Plan and review the content of courses taught at schools
- Choose textbooks and other materials for use in class
- Ensure programs meet curriculum standards
- May specialize in specific subject, like English or math
- Develop and conduct teacher training programs

Workplace

- Employed by school districts, elementary and high schools, colleges, and governments
- Interact with teachers, administrators, parents, and students

Education/Training

- At least a bachelor’s degree
- Master’s degree preferred
- Training and experience as a teacher or principal

Earnings

- \$34,000-\$93,000
- Median salary: \$59,000

Sample Career Path

Teacher → Senior Teacher/Department Head → Instructional Coordinator/Curriculum Specialist

Related Careers

- Human Resources Specialist
- Post-Secondary Education Administrator
- School Counselor
- Corporate Trainer

Can I see myself doing these tasks?

What kind of work setting would engage me in alignment with my work values?

Consider financial resources, time, and additional responsibilities that could be required with additional training.

Consider your financial goals and values. Are your expectations realistic with the salary range of the field?

Consider your short term and long term goals and your desire for advancement.



Resources for Continued Research

Career Advising

- See a career advisor in DePaul's Career Center in either SAC 192 or DPC Suite 9500. Appointments can be made at the front desk or by phone at 773-325-7431 for the Lincoln Park office and 312-362-8437 for the Loop campus.

Peer Advising Support

- See a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis at the Career Center (either LPC or Loop office) for job search strategies and resume critiques.
 - Email: peercareeradvising@depaul.edu

Events

- Stay updated with the Career Center for job fairs and other events:
 - Career Center website: <http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/>

Career Exploration

- Gain valuable work experience by finding an internship
 - Career Center's website: <http://careercenter.depaul.edu>
- Job shadow a professional in your chosen career
- Get involved with the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) program
 - ASK website: <http://ask.depaul.edu>
- Check out the Occupational Outlook Handbook online
 - Handbook website: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh>
- Visit onetonline.org for detailed descriptions of numerous careers