An Overview

The Pacific Union College Department of Education prepares individuals for careers in teaching in preschool through grade 12. Students complete a degree in the content area they wish to teach and work on the additional requirements for California Child Development Permits or Seventh-day Adventist and California K-12 teaching credentials.

Majors

The education department offers four degrees:
• A.S. in Early Childhood Education, which prepares for teaching at the preschool level,
• B.S. in Early Childhood Education, which prepares for teaching preschoolers and directing a child care center,
• B.S. in Liberal Studies, which is the recommended degree for individuals who want to teach elementary school,
• M.Ed. (Master of Education), which leads to advanced professional teacher certification.

Credential Programs

The education department offers teacher credential programs which are approved by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing:
• Seventh-day Adventist Basic Elementary and Secondary Teaching Certificates
• Seventh-day Adventist Professional Elementary and Secondary Teaching Certificates
• California SB2042 Preliminary Multiple Subject and Single Subject Credentials
• California SB2042 Professional Clear Multiple and Single Subject Credentials

The teacher credential programs are completed in conjunction with a content area degree. They can be completed concurrently with the degree or in a fifth year after the degree has been granted. The programs include theory courses, methods courses, and field experiences in the classroom. In addition, students must pass state exams appropriate to their program.

Fast Facts about the Education Department

> Scholarships are awarded each year to quality candidates who are scheduled for full-time student teaching.
> Job placement assistance is provided through the Education Days Banquet & Interviews, the annual Placement Book, and placement files.
> Each spring candidates completing their programs are honored and recognized by the department faculty and staff at a special teacher dedication service for the candidates and their families.
> Candidates completing our programs become successful preschool, elementary, and secondary teachers.
Why Choose PUC for Your Credential Program?

The education department is dedicated to preparing the best possible teachers. To accomplish this the department seeks to meet several goals.

• Classroom field experiences throughout the program. From the time of entry into the program the student will be regularly exposed to classroom teaching through observation, short-term field experiences, and full-time student teaching. These opportunities help make the student comfortable and competent in the classroom setting.

• Exposure to college teachers who teach from their own real-life experiences. Our college faculty are all fully-certified teachers who have many years of experience in preschool, elementary or secondary classrooms. They bring to the classroom a rich practical background to share with teachers-in-training.

• Development of a wide variety of teaching skills. Our program seeks to teach students to plan effective lessons, create an environment of learning, develop clear presentation skills, assess student learning, reach students with diverse needs, motivate learners, and behave professionally.

• Full accreditation of credential programs. Our credential programs are fully accredited by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, which gives assurance of a quality learning experience resulting in the desired credentials.

Career Opportunities

The job outlook for teachers in the 21st century is excellent. “The projected demand for teachers may outpace the projected growth in the supply of teachers. Some policymakers estimate that school districts will have to hire about 200,000 teachers annually over the next decade to keep pace with rising student enrollments and teacher retirements for a total of 2.2 million additional teachers” (Fidler & Haselkorn, 1999). Starting salaries for elementary and secondary teachers range from $34,000-$40,000 with experienced personnel receiving salaries up to $75,000 when they serve as mentor teachers or resource specialists in the public school system.