



What Can I Do With A Major In: Birth-Kindergarten

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION

Career paths include a variety of settings in which you will be able to meet children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs from birth to kindergarten.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

Kindergarten Teacher	Children’s Hospitals	Children’s Health Programs
Disability Programs	Child Care Worker	Education Administrator
Postsecondary Teacher	Child Life Specialist	Child Center Director
Assistant Clinical Instructor	Teaching Assistant	Librarian
Juvenile Services	Recreation Programs	High School Teacher
Preschool Teacher	Special Ed Teachers	Instructional Coordinator
Human Services Agencies	Family Life Education	Middle School Teachers
School Counselor	Career Counselors	Social Worker
Technical Ed teacher	Career Ed Teacher	Language Arts Teacher
History Teacher	Sciences Teacher	Art/other Teacher

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?

Schools | Pre-Schools | Hospitals | Social Services | Libraries | Social Work Agencies | Education Programs | Head Start | More-at-Four | Early Interventionists | Childhood Advocates

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION

At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Before the end of your first semester a student must decide whether to pursue a professional education or early childhood course of study. Students who choose the professional education course of study will be certified to teach after they graduate while students who choose to pursue the early childhood course of study will not be certified. The early childhood course of study is for individuals who see themselves working with young children and their families in setting other than public schools.

Interested in learning more about the Birth-Kindergarten Major? Here’s a video on the classes you will be taking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q50VvuIn-9g>

WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?

Teamwork | Communication | Patience | Planning | Creativity | Lesson Planning | An Understanding of How School Systems Work | How to Work With Different Parents | How to Work With A Variety of Children

KNOWLEDGE

- Able to work collaboratively with parents and professionals to manage a positive classroom environment in order to create an accepting classroom environment and atmosphere.
- Demonstrate the role of a Birth-Kindergarten leader in schools and agencies as well as advocate for young children.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Website: <http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/CEAP/ceap-depts/humanserv/bk/>
- National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/>
- Teach: <https://www.teach.org/>
- Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

- Current teaching jobs available at: <http://www.teachingjobs.com/index.php>
- NC Tower: <http://nctower.com>
- Educational Oasis: http://www.educationoasis.com/resources/Professional_development/proforg.htm
(Lists various organizations related to teaching and different organizations depending on your specific teaching concentration)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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