What Can I Do with a Major in Education



OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

The Department of Education at Concordia University offers at the undergraduate level a Minor in Education, Minor in Adult Education, B.A. Specialization in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, B.Ed. Specialization in Teaching English as a Second Language, B.A. with major in Child Studies, Certificate in Adult Education, and Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language. At the graduate level, the department offers, a M.A. in Applied Linguistics, M.A. in Child Study, M.A. in Educational Studies, and M.A. in Educational Technology, Diploma in Adult Education, and Diploma in Instructional Technology, and a Ph.D. in Education with four areas of specialization. For the latest information on programs, go to the Department of Education's website at http://doe.concordia.ca.

Though a career in education can be demanding, many who are attracted to the profession find it to be challenging, inspiring and rewarding. It is a field that offers a wide range of careers including teaching as well as non-teaching opportunities. Those wishing to teach at either the elementary or secondary school level in Quebec must obtain authorization (brevet d'enseignement) from the Québec Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (www.mels.gouv.qc.ca). Graduate school will be required for those aspiring to teach at the college or university level.

CELEBRATED EDUCATION MAJORS

Victor Cicansky. Award Winning **Canadian** Sculptor
Bill Cosby. American Comedian, Actor and Author
D.H. Lawrence. English Novelist and Poet. (Teaching Certificate)
Anne Murray. Grammy Award-Winning **Canadian** Singer
Gene Simmons. American Guitarist/Vocalist.

Justin Trudeau. **Canadian**. Member of Parliament
Jody Williams. Nobel Prize Winner for Work Banning Landmines
Bertha Wilson. Supreme Court of Canada Judge. (Teaching Certificate)

EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY RECENT CONCORDIA GRADUATES

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/.

- Activity Worker (3414)
- Administrative Assistant (1411)
- Behavioural Therapist (4151)
- Career Counsellor (4213)
- Child-care Worker (4212, 4214)
- Client Care Counsellor
- Day-care Educator (4214)
- Education Co-ordinator (4166)
- Educational Counsellor (4143)
- Elementary School Teacher (4142)
- ESL (English As a Second Language) Teacher (4141, 4131)
- Facilitator (4213, 4212)
- Grant Writer (5121)
- Interpretative Guide (5212)
- Interviewer (1223, 1213)
- Kindergarten Teacher (4142)
- Music Teacher (4141, 4131, 4142)
- Pedagogical Assistant Physical Education Instructor (4141, 4142)
- Preschool Teacher (4214)
- Project Supervisor (1221)
- Recreation Animator (4167)
- Research Assistant (4164, 4122)
- School Principal (0313)
- Teacher (4141, 4131, 4214, 4142)
- Tutor (4216, 4131, 4142, 4122)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (4153)

MORE JOB TITLES

Education majors land jobs such as teacher, school administrator, admission advisor, and counsellor. However, skills of educators are in demand in such diverse areas as AIDS awareness, computer literacy or corporate in-house training programs. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which education majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to

Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/.

- Administrator, Education Programs (0312)
- Adult Education Teacher (4141)
- Art Teacher (4141, 4142, 5136)
- Athletics Coach (5252)
- Athletics Director (0014, 0721)
- Child Development Specialist
- Child Life Specialist
- College Administrator (0312)
- Curriculum Planner (4166)
- Dean – University or College (0312)
- Director of Admissions – Post-secondary Education (0312)
- Director Student Affairs (0312)
- Educational Resources Specialist (6472)
- Educational Software Developer (2174)
- Employee Trainer (4131)
- Health Educator (4165)
- Instructional Technology Specialist
- Librarian (5111)
- Media Center Specialist
- Missionary Worker (4217)
- Program Supervisors (4166, 4167)
- Reading Specialist (4141, 4142)
- Rehabilitation Teacher (4215)
- School Nurse (3152)
- School Psychologist (4151)
- Secondary School Teacher (4141)
- Social Services Volunteer Co-ordinator (4212)
- Special Education Teacher (4141, 4142)
- Speech Pathologist (3141)
- Superintendent of Education Services (0313)
- Textbook Editor (5122)
- Vocational Education Teacher (4131)
- Writer, Children's Books (5121)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

The majority of people who graduate with an education degree work in either public or private schools and are often employed in teaching or administrative positions. Continued growth is expected in the special education sector. However, there are also opportunities for those with teaching skills, to be employed in training and development programs in business, military and government settings. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Adult Education Centres
- Alternative Schools
- Art Schools
- Boarding Schools

- Colleges and Universities
- Community Services
- Consulting Firms
- Corporate Settings
- Day Care Centres
- Distance Education Providers
- Education Commissions/ Boards
- Educational Institutions
- Educational Publishers
- Educational Television Stations
- Elementary & Secondary Schools
- Ethnic and Cultural Organizations
- Fitness Facilities
- Home Day Care Programs
- Hospitals
- International Development Agencies
- Language Training Centres
- Libraries
- Museums
- Music Schools
- Native Schools
- Nursery Schools
- Prisons
- Recreational Centres
- Rehabilitation Centres
- Schools Abroad
- Special Needs Centres
- Tutoring Centres
- Vocational/Trade Schools
- Youth Drop-in Centres

SKILLS and CHARACTERISTICS

Good teachers are deeply engaged with their students and the subject matter that they teach. They are dedicated, patient people with strong communication and presentation skills. High energy, enthusiasm, a sense of humour, and the ability to maintain discipline in a classroom setting are definite assets. Educators must be open to adapting their instruction methods to the different learning styles and developmental needs of their students. They must keep current with new technology and new methods of teaching and, to this end, must be lifelong learners themselves. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Articulate
- Ability to Keep Calm
- Ability to Summarize Ideas
- Ability to Teach/ Train
- Active Listener
- Computer Literate
- Consensus Building Skills
- Creative
- Decision-Making Skills
- Expressive
- Fair
- Flexible
- Interpersonal Skills
- Knowledge of Children
- Leadership Skills
- Mediation Skills
- Outgoing
- Persuasive
- Planning Skills
- Record-keeping Abilities
- Responsible
- Team Worker
- Tolerant
- Well Organized

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

Canadian

Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)
http://www.accute.ca

This association represents faculty teaching English in Canadian universities and colleges and students studying English at the graduate level. ACCUTE's newsletter, journal and online discussion groups allow one to keep up with current issues in the field and with scholarly/professional concerns. Click on *Jobs* for employment vacancies and *Resources* for career information.

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers
http://caslt.org

Offers professional development opportunities for its members through workshops, symposia and conferences. Its website and online newsletter keep one current with what is happening in the field. Click on *Become a Second Language Teacher* for a wealth of information.

Canadian Education Association
http://www.cea-ace.ca/

The association works to build public education and learning systems across the country as well as outside Canada. Through its Blog/enewsletter, publications and events one can keep abreast with the latest issues in the education sector. Offers student memberships. Try the FAQ section for education statistics, international opportunities, scholarship information and more. The *Education Directory* provides an extensive listing of institutions where one might apply to work.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
http://www.ctf-fce.ca

National voice for Canadian teachers. Look under *Teaching in Canada* for information on becoming a teacher, certification, finding a job, teacher exchange programs and more!

Education Canada Network

http://www.educationcanada.com

A major educational e-recruitment resource network. Includes information on certification and teacher salaries as well as job listings nationwide.

Jobs in Education
http://www.jobsineducation.com

A commercial site that provides a job board and an e-newsletter. Click on *Stay Connected* to locate the latter.

TESL Canada Federation
www.tesl.ca

Provides a forum for the sharing of interests and knowledge concerning English as a second language and English skills development. Includes information on professional development and teacher training programs. Click *Jobs* for recent job postings.

International

American Education Research Association (AERA)
http://www.aera.net/

AERA is an international professional organization with the primary goal of advancing educational research and its practical application. Provides a listing of fellowships and grants as well offering networking opportunities through its many divisions and special interest groups. Click on *Professional Advancement* to research jobs.

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
http://www.aft.org/

AFT represents and serves classroom teachers. Click on *News and Publications* to access information on key issues in the field of teaching.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
http://www.naeyc.org

The largest organization of early childhood educators in the United States. Works to promote quality early childhood programs and to improve working conditions for educators. Provides lots of information to keep one current in the field. Click on *About NAEYC* and then *Career Forum* for job opportunities.

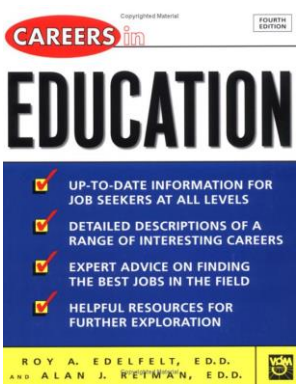
Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
http://www.tesol.org

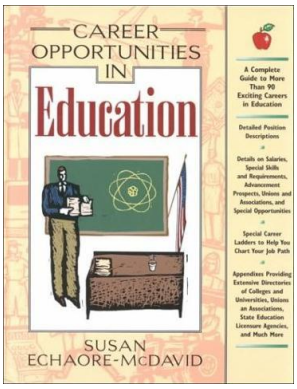
Much of interest for those in the TESOL field. Click on *Enhance Your Career* for job listings, information on career development, TESOL degree and certificate programs, and awards and grants. Student memberships available.

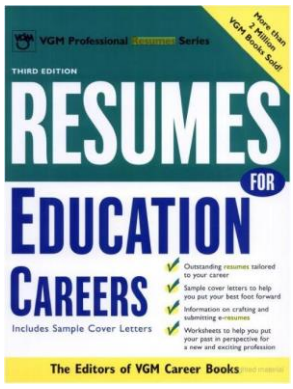
Creating Your Amazing Career

CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.♣







- Ace Your Teacher Interview
- Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty
- Behind the Playdough Curtain: A Year in My Life As a Preschool Teacher
- Best Careers for Teachers
- Careers in Education
- Career Opportunities in Education
- Careers Working with Children – Panel Discussion (DVD)
- C.E.G.E.P. Teaching Careers: Panel Discussion (DVD)
- Directory of Canadian Schools
- Early Childhood Education/Preschool Teacher Career Starter
- How to Get the Teaching Job You Want
- Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job
- Inside Track: Getting Hired to Teach in a Canadian School

- Marketing Your Educational Leadership Skills: How to Land the Job You Want
- 101 Career Alternatives for Teachers
- Opportunities in Adult Education Careers
- Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers
- Opportunities in Educational Support Careers
- Opportunities in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Opportunities in Technical Education Careers
- Resumes for Education Careers
- Questions Answered on… Working with Special Needs Children
- So You Want to Be a Teacher?
- Start and Run an ESL Teaching Business
- Teaching in a Cold and Windy Place: Change in an Inuit School
- Teaching in Nunavik
- What's Next? A Job Search Guide for Teachers