

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know what courses to take?

First, students should consult the college catalog to get an overview of the program. Please keep in mind that what is listed in the catalog is intended to provide a general overview of the program. Specific transfer institutions should be considered when selecting certain courses.



How many education courses are required?

For the AA degree, students must take 6 credits in education. The AAS degree requires approximately 18 credits in education (depending on chosen track). Introduction to Education (EDU 109) is required for students in both programs. Additional course selection should be based on the intended focus of study (early childhood, elementary, middle, or high) and transfer institutions.

Is student-teaching or work outside of Mercer required?

A traditional student-teaching assignment will be completed by students at the senior college level. Introduction to Education (EDU 109) requires 25 hours of observation in an educational setting of choice. Students pursuing the AAS degree are required to complete a field experience.

How important is Grade Point Average (GPA) for transfer into a teacher education program?

Generally speaking, GPA is very important for an education major. Although transfer institutions have different requirements for entry, The State of New Jersey requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 for certification. In addition, senior colleges require a minimum GPA of 2.75 to be eligible for student teaching.



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The Education Major

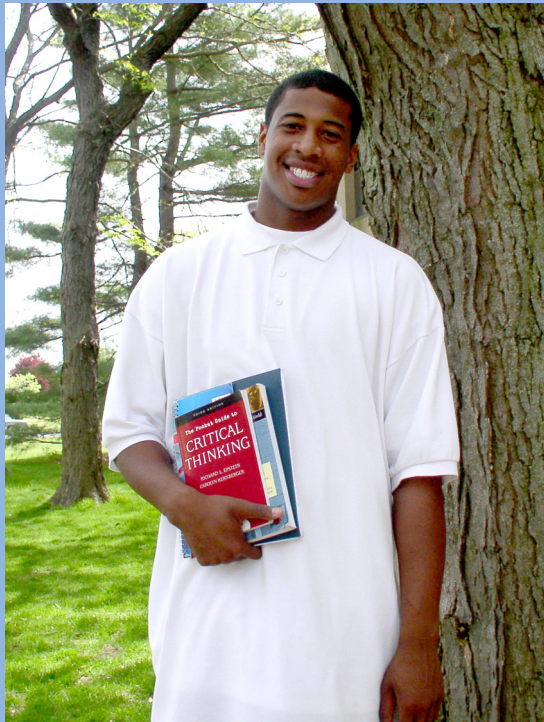
*Start preparing for a career
in education at MCCC!*

Get **Academic Solutions** at Mercer



The Education Major at a Glance

- AA degree designed to prepare students for transfer into senior colleges
- AAS degree for students wishing to limit studies to 2 years: special education assistant and early childhood tracks
- Certificates and Credentials for students wishing to distinguish themselves in the field of early childhood education



How can Mercer help prepare me for a career in Education?

The AA in Education is designed to give students a strong liberal arts background with an introduction to educational course content. The major requires completion of 6 credits in education, including Introduction to Education. Upon completion, students will be prepared to transfer to teacher education programs at many four year institutions.



What do I do beyond Mercer?

Students wishing to become certified teachers (p-12) in the state of New Jersey should plan on transferring into a teacher education program at a senior college. There are many choices to explore, even without leaving Mercer's campus. William Paterson University is offering a BA degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education on Mercer's campus. In many cases, Mercer's graduates can transfer into this program and begin pursuing their major immediately. It is strongly recommended that students meet with an education advisor early in their studies.

What if I do not want to transfer — what can I do with a 2 year degree?

For students who do not intend to pursue college beyond Mercer, the AAS degree might be the right choice. This degree is not designed for transfer; instead it prepares students for entry into the workforce as a special education classroom assistant or early childhood teacher/assistant (pre-school and kindergarten only).

The Road to Becoming a Certified Teacher in New Jersey:

- Earn a Bachelor's Degree; Mercer can prepare you for transfer.
- Complete an approved student-teaching assignment (this will be arranged at the four year level).
- Take and pass all Praxis exams applicable to the desired license. You should consult www.ets.org and an advisor for specifics.
- Maintain a GPA of 2.75 at the senior college level.
- Apply for a substitute license after obtaining your AA or AAS degree. Consult www.state.nj.us for more information.

