Educational Studies

The field of education is about more than teaching people how to teach. The Bryn Mawr-Haverford Education Program is built around four mutually-informing pursuits: teacher preparation; the interdisciplinary study of learning as a central human and cultural activity; the investigation of the politics of schooling as a powerful source of personal and societal development; and students’ self-study as they evolve as teachers, learners, researchers, and change agents.

Each education course includes a field component through which instructors seek continuously to integrate theory and practice, asking students to bridge text-oriented and experiential knowledge in the classroom and beyond it. Therefore, in addition to extensive exploration of educational theory, all courses require field placements in area schools ranging from two hours per week in the 200-level courses to full-time student teaching in the certification program.

The Education Program offers the following options to students interested in education. Students may:

1. Take courses that are open to all interested students
2. Pursue a minor in educational studies
3. Pursue a secondary teacher certification as undergraduates or after they graduate or
4. Sub-matriculate as a junior or senior into Penn’s Graduate School of Education to begin coursework towards a Master’s Degree in Education and an elementary or secondary teacher certification

The Minor in Educational Studies

The Minor in Educational Studies provides students with the opportunity to regard their own learning and fields of specialization with critical distance, explore the complex relationship between theory and practice through observation, reflection, and action in field placements in a variety of settings, and gain experience, knowledge, and skills that will serve them in future study and work. Since the Education Program does not offer elementary certification at or certification in specialist areas, such as special education or school psychology, many students choose to begin their exploration of the field of education (with future career or graduate school goals in mind) with the minor. A minor in education is available to students completing six credits in the Education Program, including a senior seminar.

Secondary Certification

The Bryn Mawr/Haverford Education Program is accredited by the State of Pennsylvania to prepare students for secondary school certification (grades 7-12) in English, math, science (biology, chemistry, and physics), social studies, and world languages (primarily, French, Latin, and Spanish). To qualify for certification, students major in the subject in which they seek certification (e.g., English) and concurrently take at least six education courses and student teach, for two credits, full-time for a semester. Students must also take two English and two math courses, maintain a GPA of
at least a 3.0, and must pass a series of tests of basic skills in reading, writing, and math, as well as of content area knowledge.

**Teacher Education Program for Bryn Mawr and Haverford Graduates**

Haverford and Bryn Mawr graduates may complete the requirements for secondary teacher certification in a post-baccalaureate program.

**Sub-matriculation into Master’s Program at the University of Pennsylvania**

Students interested in obtaining both the M.S. Ed. degree and a Pennsylvania teaching certificate in either elementary or secondary education may apply to sub-matriculate as juniors or seniors into the University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education’s 10-month, urban-focused Master’s Program in Elementary or Secondary Education. Students who sub-matriculate may take up to two graduate-level education courses at Penn while they are undergraduates that will double count toward their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

**Courses Appropriate for First-year Students**

First year students who are prepared for reading and writing intensive courses and the challenges of integrating field-based and academic learning are welcomed in our courses starting in the spring semester.

**Education Program Faculty and Staff**

Ann Brown, Program Coordinator and Adviser
Alison Cook-Sather, Professor and Coordinator, Teaching and Learning Initiative
Jody Cohen, Term Professor (on leave, Fall 2013)
Heather Curl, Instructor
Debbie Flaks, Instructor
Alice Lesnick, Term Professor and Director, Education Program, Director, Child and Family Studies, and Director, Africana Studies

Program Offices: Bryn Mawr College, Bettws Y Coed Building

For more information, e-mail Ann Brown at abrown@brynmawr.edu or call (610) 526-5376.