Hallmarks of the Secondary Education Minor

1. Candidates are content-area experts with a major – or at least 30 credits of coursework – in their teaching subject.
2. Candidates can prepare for certification in one or more content areas.
3. Expectations are rigorous and standards are high: a 3.0 GPA is required for recommendation for certification.
4. We believe in bringing out the best in each student – we challenge students and we help them succeed.
5. Students have significant classroom experience – field experiences start in the first education course (typically sophomore year). Students gain experience at both middle and high school levels.
6. Students have an academic adviser who is a faculty member in the School of Education. A close community is created through exceptional mentoring and close interactions between faculty and students.
7. The challenging curriculum enables students to understand the diverse needs of students and to develop a repertoire of strategies to meet learners’ needs leading to success on the job search.

What makes us different?

- Education faculty are “there” for our students every step of the way. When they have new challenges, we find ways to support them and help them succeed. SBU is not a school that says “you need to figure this out on your own.” We say “you need to figure this out, and we’re here to help you.”
- We challenge our students to be passionate about their commitment to education.
- We instill a sense of social justice in our candidates – and we expect them to become educators who are driven to help all of their students succeed.

What makes our grads great educators? They become...

- Teachers who believe that all students can learn – and who create learning environments to help them succeed
- Teachers who are active members of school communities
- Teachers who can explain to others why what they do is in the best interest of their students (using theory and research but in terms that laymen understand). In other words, our graduates are advocates for the profession.

QUICK FACTS:

- This is a 37-credit minor
- We offer a program for students who want to teach biology, chemistry, English, French, mathematics, physics, social studies and Spanish.
Frequently Asked Questions...Secondary Education Minor
At St. Bonaventure University

I want to teach high school English (history, math, science...). Can I prepare to do that at SBU?

YES! At the UNDERGRADUATE level, there is a minor in secondary education. It is a 37-credit minor, and leads to initial certification in New York. A second option is a Master’s degree in Adolescence Education. SO you can choose to complete the requirements for teacher certification at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

Can I get certified to teach ANY high school subject if I complete the secondary education minor?

No. At SBU, we offer a program for students who want to teach biology, chemistry, English, French, mathematics, physics, social studies and Spanish.

I’m going to be a history (English, Bio) major. Do I need to take a foreign language?

Yes. NY requires all teachers to study a foreign language. And all majors at SBU require completion of a foreign language through the “202” (intermediate) level. You may have to take up to 4 semesters of a language.

Isn’t it hard to complete a 37-credit minor? That seems like a lot!

The minor is designed to be completed as part of a 4-year program alongside the content-area major. It does take careful planning, but that is why you will have 2 advisers – one in your content major and one for the education minor. Most students can complete the minor in the 4-year timeframe.

The minor in secondary education does not lead to certification for students with disabilities. However, SBU offers a graduate program in differentiated instruction through which you can become eligible for certification for students with disabilities at the 7-12 grade levels.

I am interested in teaching children with disabilities. Will I be prepared to do that?

Yes – and we encourage you to do that! So long as it fits with your MAJOR, we think it is a great idea. Students who want to become teachers of French or Spanish definitely should study abroad. Talk with both of your advisers!

I want to study abroad. Can I do that long with an Education minor?

Yes – and we encourage you to do that! So long as it fits with your MAJOR, we think it is a great idea. Students who want to become teachers of French or Spanish definitely should study abroad. Talk with both of your advisers!

For more information, contact Dr. Nancy Casey, Dean and Chair, 716-375-2394
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