Major Information
The Department of Physical Education offers programs designed to help students develop knowledge and skills necessary for effective teaching in today’s schools. Students are prepared for the teaching profession in a way that is reflective of Franciscan service to others – an ideal that is central to the mission of St. Bonaventure University. The degree in physical education leads to New York State certification for K-12. It offers an opportunity to move to other roles in the profession, such as coaching and recreation, as well as provide teaching and leadership opportunities in non-school settings, such as fitness and sports centers. A degree in physical education certifies a graduate to coach in New York State.

Classroom Experience from Year 1
The School of Education is committed to preparing confident and effective teachers who can implement a variety of strategies to design and enrich learning environments. Local physical education teachers mentor our teacher candidates beginning the freshmen year and continue to accrue over 400 hours of experience, including writing and implementing lesson plans, prior to their student teaching experience in their senior year. Students also have the opportunity to become involved with our service for Special Olympics where they can earn a variety of coaching certifications.

Future teachers will be supported in their certification process by SBU’s faculty and staff by offering and transcripting required workshops and preparation for the edTPA and content specialty exams. Graduates have earned immediate jobs teaching in New York and 10 other states, as well as entered graduate programs in teaching, health, counseling and administration.

Extraordinary Opportunities
In recent years the undergraduate physical education teacher education program has added a range of very unique learning experiences that make us distinct. Students become engaged in experiences that support adapted physical education activities; National Girls and Women’s Sports Day; presenting at local, state, and international academic conferences; and helping others through service-learning projects related to physical education and sport.

Your Four-Year Journey At SBU
First Year: Students will be introduced to foundational coursework in physical education, team sports and biology. Students will also begin taking courses to meet the requirements of the core curriculum.

Second Year: Students will begin to study fitness and wellness, human anatomy and physiology, individual and dual sports, developmental psychology and special education.

Third Year: Students focus on coursework emphasizing the scientific analysis of movement, the prevention and care of athletic injuries, coaching and outdoor adventure skills. In addition, they enter the SBU Field Block to combine coursework and clinical practice in physical education programs in local schools.

Fourth Year: Students complete their undergraduate coursework by concluding their remaining major and core studies. During the final semesters at SBU, students are placed for two student teaching experiences: one each at the K-6 and the 7-12 level.