



B.S. in Physical Education

Major Information

The Department of Physical Education offers a program that uniquely prepares teacher candidates to teach in a way that is reflective of our Franciscan values.

In addition, SBU's physical education program is a nationally recognized, fully accredited program in physical education teacher education designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for employment in today's schools.

Physical education teacher education (PETE) at SBU is recognized by The National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) as a fully accredited program for the professional preparation of teachers in physical education.

A degree in physical education from SBU leads to New York state certification to teach physical education in the state's public schools from K-12.

Completion of an undergraduate degree in physical education also offers an opportunity to move into other roles in the profession, such as coaching, serving as an athletic director, and directing programs in community recreation.

Graduates who complete a degree in physical education are certified to coach any of the sports offered to students enrolled in New York state public schools. For those who come to SBU from out of state or who move to a state other than New York following graduation, additional requirements may apply, but SBU has had a long and successful history of sending teachers across the country to teach and coach in urban, suburban and rural community schools.

Classroom Experience from Year 1

The School of Education is committed to preparing confident and effective teachers. Over the course of our students' four-year experience, local physical education teachers play a key role as mentors in a variety of practicum experiences in our teacher education program.

Beginning in their freshmen year, those who choose a career path in teaching will enter local schools to first observe, then shadow, then teach under the supervision of seasoned professionals who teach and coach, many of whom are also former Bonnies!

By the time teacher candidates begin their student teaching experience, they will have worked with students across the developmental spectrum from K-12 and will have been exposed to a range of diverse learners in a variety of schools.

Graduates from our program have earned immediate jobs as teachers and coaches in New York and many other states.

Alternatively, for those who wish to continue on with their studies, we have also had a number of students pursue graduate degrees in teaching, exercise science, counseling and school administration.

During their time at SBU students also have the option of becoming involved with Special Olympics. A globally recognized volunteer organization, Special Olympics offers a variety of coaching certifications that teacher candidates can earn and use during campus-sponsored events, and in the communities in which they may live and work after graduation.



www.sbu.edu/admissions • admissions@sbu.edu • (800) 462-5050

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www.sbu.edu/physed • Dr. Paul Brawdy, Chair • pbrawdy@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2248

Exceptional Opportunities

In recent years the undergraduate physical education teacher education program has added a range of very unique learning experiences that make us distinct from other such programs.

Students at SBU become engaged in experiences that support sport and physical education for people with disabilities, programs that promote gender equity, presentations of scholarly work (at local, state, and international academic conferences), and service-learning opportunities related to physical education, sport and wellness.

Your Four-Year Journey at SBU

Here's a year-by-year snapshot of what and how you will learn as a physical education major at St. Bonaventure University.

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 General Education 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, teacher candidates will begin their professional coursework with an emphasis on the integration of theory and practice, where coursework is combined with clinical practice 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 at the PreK-6 level and one at the 7-12 level.