

Education and Youth Studies Major

The major embodies a scholar-practitioner model in the liberal arts tradition, with the purpose of providing students with a sequence of intellectual, ethical, and practical experiences that lead to a broad, integrated knowledge of youth and education. This knowledge is realized in the practical ability to work effectively with children, adolescents, and adults in schools and other social settings. Most often this takes the form of preparing students to be teachers. Education and youth studies department programs are fully accredited by Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction. Teacher education at Beloit is fully integrated into an academically rigorous major that stresses experiential and interdisciplinary learning, a respect for difference, and critical global perspectives on education and youth issues.

The major features three distinct tracks:

Track One: Children and Schools, which may lead to Wisconsin certification. (middle childhood – early adolescence)

Track Two: Adolescents and Schools, which may lead to Wisconsin certification. (early adolescence – adolescence)

Track Three: Youth and Society, which does not lead to Wisconsin certification.

Students in each track take a common set of core courses and a different set of upper-level courses more specific to their interests. All students engage in extensive field experiences, including a full term of field work, either as student-teachers or as interns/researchers. Such opportunities are available locally, nationally, and internationally.

Track three leads to post-graduate work in a variety of fields related to education and youth, and to graduate study. Recent graduates have gone on to graduate school to become licensed special education and regular teachers, lawyers, social workers, mental health workers, early childhood specialists, artists, physical education teachers and coaches, and to complete doctoral programs in education and related fields.

Students electing to major in education and youth studies may select from the following three tracks:

- 1) Children and Schools (11 units)
 - a) Education and Youth Studies 101 or 102, 151, 204, 252, 262, 272, 282, and 302 (3*).
 - b) Choose one 200- or 300-level education and youth studies course not required above or a pre-approved upper-level course outside of second major. (Students going abroad for part of their student teaching should choose Education and Youth Studies 276 or 296 when offered with an international focus.)
 - c) Writing/Communication requirement: Communication is both the medium and the message in the department's program. Students read, write, listen, and speak as they bridge theory and practice. They compose education autobiographies and propose and articulate their developing philosophies of teaching and learning. Students are called upon to write formally and informally, individually and collaboratively, in nearly every course. From the beginning of their program until and throughout their capstone experiences, students construct comprehensive portfolios of their work, which are reviewed by department faculty.
- 2) Adolescents and Schools (11 units)
 - a) Education and Youth Studies 101 or 102, 152, 204, 267, 277, 304 (3*).
 - b) One course chosen from the following disciplinary perspectives: Education and Youth Studies 252, 262, 272, or 282.
 - c) Choose two 200- or 300-level education and youth studies courses not required above. One pre-approved disciplinary or interdisciplinary course may be taken in lieu of a departmental course. (Students going abroad for part of their student teaching should choose Education and Youth Studies 276 or 296 when offered with an international focus as one of the required electives.)
 - d) Writing/Communication requirement: *See children and schools.*
- 3) Youth and Society (11 units)

**If student is teaching abroad, these 3 units will be split between Education and Youth Studies 310 and either 302 or 304.*

- a) Education and Youth Studies 101 or 102, 151 or 152, 204, 296, or equivalent, 306 (3), 382.
- b) Choose 2 units of Education and Youth Studies 276 (topics will vary each semester).
- c) Choose 1 unit of 200- or 300-level education and youth studies courses not required above. One pre-approved disciplinary or interdisciplinary course may be taken in lieu of a departmental course.
- d) Writing/communication requirement: *See children and schools.*

Teacher Certification

For details about certification requirements for all programs, students should consult the department's Handbook and the department website. Because of frequent changes in state rules and regulations relating to teacher licensure, teacher certification requirements are no longer published in the Beloit College catalog. In order to be certified for licensure as a teacher, students must complete a second academic major.

Only tracks one and two of the education and youth studies major may lead to certification for a Wisconsin initial educator license.

The department of education and youth studies certifies students for Wisconsin initial educator licensure in the following areas:

- 1) middle childhood/early adolescence (grades 1-8)
- 2) early adolescence/adolescence (grades 6-12)
- 3) art (grades 1-12)
- 4) drama (grades 1-12)
- 5) foreign language (grades 1-12)

Students interested in certification for licensure in drama, art, and foreign language normally complete the adolescents and schools track of the education and youth studies major, but they should consult with their disciplinary and education and youth studies advisors about possible modifications and special provisions that relate to their areas of interest.

The state of Wisconsin has several additional requirements for licensure, e.g., passing

examinations of basic skills and content knowledge.

Student teaching includes 18 weeks of full-time work in one or more classrooms at the appropriate level(s). Student teaching placements are generally within 20 miles of Beloit College, which include the School District of Beloit, Turner School District, South Beloit School District, Rockton School District, and Clinton Community School District. Placements made beyond the 20-mile limit require a proposal and approval by the department. Students are encouraged to student teach or engage in field experience outside the United States. Those interested in pursuing either of these options must complete an application and approval process, through which they demonstrate that they will meet all departmental expectations in terms of advising, planning, course work, and other relevant experience. In recent years students have taught in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, England, Germany, Norway, and Thailand.

Special Programs:

Coaching Certification

Beloit College has a state of Wisconsin-approved program in coaching certification. Students interested in pursuing this certificate should consult with the chair of education and youth studies.