

The Bachelor of Science in Educational Studies provides an opportunity for students to examine broad educational topics from a number of diverse perspectives. This comprehensive program offers specific interdisciplinary courses, electives, and an internship that will bridge educational concepts and principles in political, historical, theoretical, and social contexts to real life and work environments.

HOW TO USE THE ACTION PLAN

Use the Action Plan timeline to explore potential career paths and plan for success during and after your college experience. The Action Plan provides suggestions and a place to start the conversation with your advisor, but every person and every career journey is unique. Customize your own personal action plan using the **My Educational Studies Action Plan tool** (next page).

Maximize the time you have in college to prepare for your future. What do you want to do after you graduate with a multi-purpose Educational Studies degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (remember, it's ok if these change as you continue to learn more about yourself and the field!) so you can start working on short-term steps to help you reach those goals or shift directions. Remember, you do not have to do this all on your own, get the support you need from your department and from Student Support Services like **Career Services and Advising (CSA)**.

ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS



WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Gain experience in potential career fields
- Discover areas of interest across various occupations
- Build your professional networks

EXAMPLES OF PAST INTERNSHIPS

- Fitchburg State Career Services
- Educational/Behavioral Agencies: Registered Behavior Technician
- Assistant in Educational Settings (Daycare, Pre-schools, Elementary, and Private)

ALUMNI STORY REBECCA WEISENHORN '20

Internship: The Learning Experience (daycare/preschool)



During my internship I worked with children ages ranging from 3 months to 9 years. I learned how to manage a whole day schedule involving a calendar, small groups, centers, arts, mathematics, reading, gross motor skill and social skills. I also learned how to teach during COVID while having students from kindergarten to third grade in my classroom on their computers completing their school work. I would have to manage 6 different remote schedules and make sure students were getting on to Zoom meetings at the right time, making sure they were completing assignments when needed and support them to the best of my ability.



Employer: Behavioral Assistant, Milford Public Schools

CORE COMPETENCIES

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving:

Obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and may demonstrate originality and inventiveness.

Oral/Written Communications:

Demonstrate public speaking skills; is able to express ideas to others; and can write/edit documents needed to communicate to others.

Teamwork/Collaboration:

Work within a team structure, and can negotiate and manage conflict in the broader community.

Digital Literacy:

Demonstrates effective adaptability to new and emerging technologies. Uses technology to expand their knowledge and skills.

Leadership:

Able to assess and manage his/her emotions and those of others; use empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and organize, prioritize, and delegate work.

Professionalism/Work Ethic:

Demonstrates integrity and ethical behavior, acts responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind, accepts and utilizes constructive criticism well, and is able to learn from his/her mistakes.

Career Management:

Able to navigate and explore job options, understands and can take the steps necessary to pursue opportunities, and understands how to self-advocate for opportunities in the workplace.

Global/Intercultural Fluency:

Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, abilities, sexual orientations, and religions. The individual demonstrates openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals' differences.

Learning and Development:

Develop knowledge of social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development in children through adulthood. Demonstrate knowledge of teaching practices and learning theories.

Take a look at the suggested activities in the Action Plan below. You do not need to complete all these tasks, but it is a place to start generating ideas. Think about what you would like to work on now in order to feel well prepared to enter your career field or graduate school upon graduation. Use the blank My Action Plan tool with your advisor to come up with the action items that are priorities for you, revisit and revise this action plan each semester.

FIRST YEAR

SOPHOMORE YEAR

JUNIOR YEAR

SENIOR YEAR

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Students will be introduced to foundational concepts in the areas of education, psychology, sociology, and human services. Many of these courses require field experiences that link theory to practice.

Students gain a deeper understanding of critical socio-cultural concepts and skills needed to work with a variety of individuals and groups in local, national, and global societies.
Confirm major choice is right for you.

Students work closely with their academic advisor to refine their area of interest and design a plan that includes a cluster of courses that will align with their career path.

Will take a Capstone course where they will research and apply knowledge and skills to educational issues of interest.
Go over remaining degree requirements with your advisor and apply for Graduation

BUILD EXPERIENCE

Students begin their first years with field experiences in classrooms or other agencies or businesses in the area.
Take a career strength/skills assessment.
Consider a part-time job to build your experience.
Activate your Handshake account.

Classes offer real life job opportunities with increasing hours in the field.
Apply to summer jobs/internships that will build relevant experience.

Attend area workshops or volunteer at special events in area schools.
Pay attention and attend events with employers on campus/career fairs/opportunities to network within your department.
Search and apply to internships in your career field.

Students work closely with an advisor to discuss internship options.
Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events/open positions throughout the year.
Apply to jobs starting in February-March (May graduates).
Keep track of and follow up with job applications.

JOIN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Join university clubs and organizations in your interest area.
Students have the option to join the Education Club where they do a variety of activities with prekindergarten through 8th grade students in area schools.

Volunteer for Special Olympics.
Consider the numerous clubs and organizations across campus.

Join Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) an award winning International Honor Society in Education.
Seek out leadership positions in campus clubs/activities.

Serve in leadership roles within campus organizations and departments.

EXPLORE CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Discover Education from a global perspective.

Consider a Study Abroad experience.

Volunteer at local programs that offer teaching English as a Second Language.

Consider teaching abroad opportunities after graduation.

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Begin to think about a pathway in the Educational Studies program.
Familiarize yourself with CSA workshops and services.
Create a resume and have it approved by an advisor in CSA Center.

Discuss pathway options with your advisor.
Talk to advisor about opportunities within your major for internships/experiential learning.
Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields.

Begin thinking about a 4th year internship.
Connect with a CSA advisor to discuss internship opportunities.
Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview prep.
Create Handshake/ LinkedIn/ industry specific platform accounts (i.e. schoolspring).
Consider graduate/professional schools and decide if it's right for you.

In Capstone, do research on your career path and complete the internship. Apply to Graduate school.
If applicable, take graduate school entrance exams and complete applications.
Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback .
Finalize a professional portfolio (if applicable).