College of Education
Secondary Education

Overview
You may enjoy learning and sharing knowledge with others. You may find satisfaction in working with teens and seeing them grow in skill and independence. You may be challenged by work requiring organization of complex materials, constant communication with others and leadership skills. These characteristics and others make an excellent secondary teacher — someone who specializes in teaching grades 6-12.

Secondary education is a career in which you can realize the satisfaction of helping others while working in a supportive, educational setting that will constantly challenge you to grow and learn.

As a secondary teacher, you will be called upon to:
- Teach the basic skills, content and methods of learning in your field.
- Respect the individual differences in development, attitude and learning needs of teens as they respond to new situations.
- Work with other educators to plan for a learning environment that will challenge all students.
- Share yourself and your commitment to teaching with the community as you work on behalf of its youth.

Kansas State University’s College of Education offers a secondary education program that combines some of the best features of both large and small schools. Because K-State is a large, multipurpose university, its colleges offer strong, specialized coursework in your chosen content area.

Points of pride

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education presented a Best Practice Award for Professional Ethics and Moral Dispositions in Teacher Education to Kansas State University’s College of Education. The National Association for Professional Development Schools named K-State a premier program in the nation. Students complete their field experiences and student teaching in area partner schools.

Professional options

Careers
In today’s market, teachers prepared to teach in more than one field are in great demand. Career and Employment Services can advise you which teaching fields or combination of fields are currently in greatest demand. Severe and moderate teacher shortages are occurring in several secondary fields.

Many career opportunities other than classroom teaching exist for those trained in secondary education. Some examples:
- Athletic coach
- Community/junior college teacher
- School counselor
- Curriculum director or developer
- Reading specialist
- Researcher
- School administrator or director
- Special education teacher or coordinator
- State or federal agency staff
- Vocational technical school staff
- Youth or recreation agency staff
- Training and development
- Human resources
- Sales
- Customer service
- Publishing and technical writing
- Consulting
- Nonprofits

Depending on your teaching field, many other careers that demand specialized communication, technical or vocational skills may be open to you. Teachers have opportunities to work closely with people in the media, the arts, business and industry, sports and government.

At K-State, secondary teachers prepare to teach in one or more of the following content fields:
- Agricultural education
- Art#
- Biological science
- Business
- Chemistry
- Earth and space science
- English
- English as a second language*
- Family and consumer science
- Journalism
- Mathematics
- Modern languages#
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Music#
- Physics
- Social studies
- Speech/theatre

*Available as an additional endorsement only #PK-12 license

Job experience

Near the end of your program, you will have the opportunity to complete a semester of practical experience through student teaching. During student teaching, you will gradually assume responsibility a secondary classroom under the guidance of a cooperating teacher and college supervisor.

The College of Education encourages co-teaching. Early in the semester, the student teacher might serve as an assistant to the cooperating teacher and perhaps present portions of lessons while the cooperating teacher remains primarily responsible for the teaching of the class. For certain activities, the class might be divided between the two to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio.

As the semester progresses the cooperating teacher will gradually give the student teacher more of the planning and teaching. Near the end of the semester, the student teacher will be primarily responsible for the teaching.

All school districts in the state of Kansas have military-connected children. Therefore, course content integrates strategies to prepare preservice teachers to better meet the academic, social and emotional needs of military-connected students. As part of our professional development schools partnerships or student teaching, many of our preservice teachers are placed in military schools on Fort Riley, while the majority are placed in neighboring schools districts with high concentrations of military-connected students.

The college recently joined two important national efforts, Operation Educate the Educators and the Military Child Education Coalition. Both provide resources for preservice
teachers that strengthen key skills, build relationships and help preserve teachers become classroom-ready.

If you are preparing in more than one field or for more than one level, your student teaching placement may be tailored to your individual needs. Many schools, including those in Manhattan and Junction City, provide student teaching and other school placements for students.

**Academics**

**Degree options**
The College of Education offers a degree in secondary education for all teaching fields previously listed except those noted here:

- The music teaching degree is earned through the College of Arts & Sciences.
- The family and consumer science teaching degree is earned in the College of Human Ecology.
- Agricultural education teachers earn a degree in the College of Agriculture.

A list of the courses you should take to be licensed in a given teaching field may be obtained from the College of Education student website, coe.k-state.edu.

The professional portion of your program will include courses introducing teaching as a career, learning and development, educational psychology, methods of teaching, foundations of education, special education, and multicultural and interpersonal relations. You will learn about the uses of a variety of technologies in the classroom, how to help students with reading in your content field, and how to adjust teaching methods to the needs of exceptional students.

**Accreditation**

Secondary education programs at K-State are accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, or NCATE, and the Kansas State Department of Education. The university is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

**Faculty**
The College of Education faculty is large enough to include faculty who are well-qualified to offer specialized preparation for teachers in each content field. Because it retains a small school atmosphere with an average class size of 30 students, the College of Education offers personalized advising, well-supervised experiences in the schools and an outstanding placement service.

**Advising**

Once they declare secondary education as their major, students are assigned an academic advisor in the college’s Center for Student and Professional Services.

Together, the student and advisor will collaborate on issues such as degree requirements, admittance requirements and navigating the licensure process. The role of advising is to help each student set and achieve his or her goals.

**Licensure**

To teach in the Kansas public school system, secondary education majors must first meet state licensure standards, which are prescribed by the Kansas State Department of Education, or KSDE. Licensure requirements include the successful completion of the B.S. degree, along with the completion of a KSDE-approved teacher preparation program like K-State’s.

Next, they must pass a licensure test covering the content area and a test assessing teaching skills before applying for a secondary teaching license from KSDE. For more information, call the College of Education’s licensure officer at 785-532-5524.

**Preparation**

To find out if secondary education is a wise choice, you can do several things before you get to college:

- Talk with your teachers about the rewards and duties of their positions.
- Test your interest in teens by working with them in a camp, playground, library, church or school.
- Volunteer to assist with 4-H, Scouts or other community programs in which you have skills and interest.
- If your school has a future teachers organization, become active in it. If not, join and provide leadership in the school activities most closely related to the area you think you would like to teach.
- Ask Career and Employment Services about current areas of need in secondary education.
- Ask your counselor about scholarships or other financial assistance programs available for future educators.
- If you have selected a teaching area, ask your teachers if they can help you apply for scholarships available to future teachers through teachers’ organizations.

**Activities**

To enrich your academic experience in the classroom, a number of activities are available — from honor societies to clubs and organizations to professional student chapters. The door is open to make every aspect of your educational experience an exceptional one.

**Financial assistance**

**Scholarships**

Please check the College of Education website at coe.k-state.edu for the latest information on scholarships, or contact the college’s Center for Student and Professional Services at 785-532-5524. The majority of scholarships are for juniors and seniors in the teacher education program.

**Financial aid**

For information about financial aid, please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 785-532-6420.

For more information about secondary education, contact:

Center for Student and Professional Services
Kansas State University
13 Bluemont Hall
1114 Mid-Campus Dr. North
Manhattan, KS 66506-5317
785-532-5524
csp@k-state.edu
coe.k-state.edu/departments/csp

For more information about Kansas State University, contact:

Office of Admissions
Kansas State University
119 Anderson Hall
919 Mid-Campus Dr. North
Manhattan, KS 66506-0102
1-800-432-8270 (toll free) or 785-532-6250
k-state@k-state.edu
coe.k-state.edu/admissions

Notice of nondiscrimination

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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org

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