

A banner image for Geneva College featuring a stone building with a bell tower on the left, a large clock in the center, and three smiling people (two men and one woman) on the right. The text 'GENEVA COLLEGE' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

GENEVA COLLEGE

Department of Education

MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of the education department is to prepare competent professional teachers committed to excellence and integrity in teaching, identifying and analyzing educational issues from a Christian perspective, responding to student needs, continuing professional development and collaborating with colleagues, parents and community members.

OVERVIEW

Geneva seeks to prepare well-qualified Christian teachers for careers in both public and Christian schools. Teachers have a great impact on the social, personal, and intellectual development of individuals. We believe that Christians are called to develop their passion to teach individuals in a variety of educational settings. Distinctive to Geneva, our students develop a perspective on "teaching redemptively" in the classrooms.

DISTINCTIVES

- Experiential classroom learning available as early as freshman year
- Tutoring and extensive field experience in local classrooms
- Student teaching overseas is available
- All 50 states offer some form of reciprocity for certification to Geneva graduates
- Integration of faith in teaching philosophy and practice
- Geneva's test for teacher certification in elementary education (Praxis II) first time pass rate is 99% — one of the highest college pass rates in the state
- Geneva's test for special education certification (Praxis II) pass rate is 100%

PK-4 EDUCATION/PK-8 SPECIAL EDUCATION

The PK-4 program focuses on preparing candidates to teach children as young as 3 years old. A growing body of research, including studies on brain development, demonstrates that the experiences of the first years of life have a decisive and long-lasting impact on all areas of children's later development and learning. This research shows that young learners have unique needs and learn in different ways than older children. Attention to social and emotional development is essential in young children's school experience. Conceptual development in young children is based on a foundation of direct experience that enables them to later understand abstract concepts. In order for

young children to master literacy skills, they need to learn how to communicate, to acquire and understand vocabulary and linguistic concepts, and to develop the ability to recognize and decode print and to understand words in context. As Christians, we believe that children are gifts from God we believe there is a growing need for Christian teachers in the early childhood classroom.

The special education emphasis at Geneva is combined with the PK-4 education program. Students in this concentration receive the entire PK-4 education experience as well as additional in-depth education in the needs of students with disabilities.

Teaching special needs students is demanding, and people drawn to this work often tend to think of teaching not merely as a job, but as a calling. At Geneva, we approach this idea of calling, as well as the field of special education in general from a biblical perspective, which also affects how we view specially challenged students. We believe that people with disabilities have much to teach the world about what it means to be created wholly and beautifully in God's image. We are committed, then, to learning from our special needs students, even as we teach them.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION (4-8)

Geneva offers certification for middle school education (4-8) students with concentrations in:

- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

The purpose of the Middle Level Program (4-8) is to prepare teacher education candidates to have the knowledge, dispositions and skills necessary to create learning communities for young adolescents that are academically challenging, developmentally responsive and socially equitable. We believe that teacher candidates that are prepared to enter this area with their faith as foundational to understanding and living their calling are effectively equipped for service in middle school. We believe that middle level teachers need broad discipline knowledge in more than one discipline. Therefore, middle level candidates prepare in all focus areas (language arts education, mathematics education, social studies education and science education) as well as additional concentration in one specific area. Middle level teachers need to understand how young adolescents develop, so we have a curriculum that emphasizes adolescent development within courses. Candidates work in the field observing and working with individuals, small groups and large groups for approximately 190 hours PRIOR to student teaching.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Geneva offers certification for secondary education students in:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Math
- Music (K-12)
- Physics
- Social Studies

Secondary education students major in their desired subject of interest and combine this subject knowledge with professional education courses.

Through the education department, Geneva offers classes to qualify students for certification requirements necessary at the time of their graduation. Courses for secondary education majors cover issues such as technology, methods, assessments, exceptionalities in the classroom and more. Secondary students also experience a philosophical approach that is distinctively Christian. They are challenged to articulate a reflective and Christian approach to teaching their specific subject.

OUTCOMES

Geneva graduates in the last 5 years pass the Praxis II (content exams for certification) at over a 99% rate in the first attempt. Our program fully prepares students for successful certification achievement. Currently, across the country, the job demand for education majors and Geneva graduates remains high. In addition to classroom teaching, career opportunities abound with a degree in education. Geneva education graduates have attended graduate school to become faculty at colleges, principals, librarians, school counselors and psychologists. Additionally, Geneva graduates serve in the mission fields as educators in underdeveloped and undereducated regions.

STUDENT TEACHING

Geneva offers placement for student teaching in both public and Christian schools in the area. Students have the opportunity to do a portion of their student teaching in overseas placement. Students have recently completed their student teaching overseas in China, Nicaragua, France, Poland, South Korea, Austria, Spain, Thailand and Australia.

GENEVA GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Beyond the undergraduate offerings, Geneva's education program offers masters in education degrees in special education and in reading. For specific information, please visit our website at www.geneva.edu.

OUR FACULTY

Our faculty are dedicated to preparing teachers ready to integrate their faith in the public, private, and Christian classroom. All faculty take a personal interest in the development of our students. All of our faculty have earned doctorates and bring a wide experience of public and Christian school teaching to their calling at Geneva College. Our faculty have published research findings and have made presentations at local, state, national and international conferences.

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