



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

B.S. in Childhood Studies

www.sbu.edu/CHST • Dr. Nancy Casey, Chair • ncasey@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2141

Major Information

The undergraduate major in Childhood Studies is designed for students who want to develop knowledge and skills necessary for extraordinary careers working with children and families in a wide variety of settings, but do not intend to become classroom teachers. The major focuses on child development from multiple perspectives including an understanding of typically developing children, special needs children and the needs of young children. An understanding of planning and organization of programs, events and activities; behavior and behavior interventions; and a strong emphasis on collaboration with families and community members are integral to the program. This major provides students with a solid foundation in the liberal arts and students are strongly encouraged to choose a minor – or two – in a co-disciplinary area.

Professional eFolio

All students are required to develop and maintain an electronic portfolio (eFolio). The eFolio is designed to allow students to document their knowledge and skills. Each student develops an eFolio comprised of information and projects from courses, internships and field experiences and reflects how the information and projects have added to their knowledge and skill base.

The eFolio becomes a valuable job-search tool.

Career Outlook

What kinds of careers can a major in Childhood Studies lead to? This major prepares you to work in any career that focuses on the needs of children. For example, the knowledge and skills you develop on planning, assessment and understanding of child development will prepare you for graduate school and for careers involving such positions as: child advocacy; child life specialist; directing after-school programs; running camps; working in social services programs that focus on children and families; being a docent in a children's museum; developing educational materials for organizations such as museums, hospitals, and children's magazines; working for a textbook publisher; being a community organizer for children's programs; and running or working in childcare settings among other careers.

Students with interest in areas such as business, law or medicine may be deeply interested in children and intend to pursue careers in service to children. Childhood Studies is an ideal major for these students – or an ideal double major. Many Childhood Studies majors go on to graduate study in counseling, social work or law. These students want a program of studies that will prepare them to work with and understand children and families in a wide variety of settings – and Childhood Studies does just that.



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What Makes Us Extraordinary?

At St. Bonaventure University, we believe students learn best when they are learning in authentic environments, and therefore programs in SBU's School of Education are primarily field-based. This means that while our students are learning, they will also spend a significant amount of time interning in area agencies or schools. We have established partnerships with several area agencies where our faculty and students work collaboratively with faculty, students, staff and administration. Our aim is to help all involved continually develop their understanding of children.

The program involves a combination of theory-based classes taught in traditional, on-campus classrooms and significant field experiences, where students put what is learned in courses into practice. From freshman year on, students spend time in settings where they interact with children, parents and professionals in settings serving children and families. During those experiences, students are supervised, provided with feedback and encouraged as they move from college student to professional.

Students in the Childhood Studies program have a variety of field experiences during their four years culminating in a semester-long internship.

Internships

Childhood Studies majors complete an internship during their senior year in a community setting. The internship is individually designed to meet the career goals of each student. During the internship, the student identifies a problem to be studied, a program to be developed or a collaborative partnership to develop. Students work with University faculty and site supervisors during their internship.

Childhood Studies majors have recently interned in agencies and organizations such as:

- Allegany County Probation Department
- Special Olympics
- City of Erie Multicultural Center
- Genesis House
- Vermont State Child Development Center
- Langley Air Force Base
- Pre-School Learning Center, Springville, N.Y.
- Olean Youth Bureau
- Chautauqua County Striders, Jamestown, N.Y.
- Good Times of Olean

Our Mission

The School of Education is dedicated to furthering the mission of the University and to incorporating Franciscan culture and values into the preparation of educators for the twenty-first century. It provides a deep, broad, and inclusive professional preparation within a strong academic core. The School seeks to prepare students who can connect their Franciscan culture and academic and professional curriculum to learners and learning environments of the future. Operating within our conceptual framework, our programs help students develop into competent educators and leaders who value children and are committed to the ideal of helping all children.