

# Teaching

## Background –

Teaching in Michigan requires a state specific license. There are many ways to obtain this license. Michigan requires the completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program (elementary and secondary education), a teachable major and/or minor (secondary education), and the passing of the certification exam (MTTC). If you have a bachelor's degree in Psychology, you will need to complete a Graduate Teaching Certification.

For more specific information please visit your advisor and this website:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Becoming\\_a\\_Michigan\\_Teacher\\_605459\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Becoming_a_Michigan_Teacher_605459_7.pdf)

**What can I expect to make in this career?** Kindergarten & Elementary Teacher - \$55, 490;  
High School Teacher - \$58, 030\*

**What classes at GVSU may better prepare me for work in this career?** Discuss with your advisor which courses among those on this list, along with other courses not listed here, would best serve your career goals.

1. **PSY 301** – Child Development
2. **PSY 325** – Educational Psychology
3. **PSY 326** – Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
4. **PSY 304** – Education of the Exceptional Child
5. **EDF 100** – Hands on experience volunteering in Grand Rapids Public Schools
6. **EDF 315** – Diverse Perspectives in Education



**What experiences outside of classes may prepare me to work as a teacher?**

1. Grand Valley offers a College of Education – Graduate Teacher Certification (GTC)
  - a. More information - <http://www.gvsu.edu/coe/gtc/> or call (616) 331-6650
2. Substitute Teaching
  - a. Hands on classroom experience teaching – can be completed with a certain number of credits and GPA from a regionally accredited institution, background check and application
  - b. More information - <https://www.edustaff.org/>
3. Volunteering with children in Grand Rapids
  - a. Boys and Girls Club
  - b. Creative Youth Center
  - c. YMCA
4. Hispanic Center of Western Michigan
  - a. Supporting Our Leaders (SOL) Youth Program – after school tutoring, college fieldtrips, leadership development, college and career preparation

**What applicable skills are helpful to have in this field?** Teachers strive to have superb communication skills (written and oral), patience, resourcefulness, empathy, and cultural competency.

**Employer Possibilities** - Public school systems (elementary schools, middle schools, high schools), private or charter schools