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Becoming A Teacher Without A Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)

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OVERVIEW

Teaching Without a Bachelor of Education

Careers in education are multi-faceted and complex with teachers being so much more than educators – they become role models, friends, and inspirations to their students. Teaching is both fulfilling and demanding, requiring patience, tolerance, and creativity. Under the umbrella of teaching, there are many pathways into this broad field of work and the choice to take one route over another depends on numerous factors including program duration or location, teaching method of interest, personal preference and experience, requirements - academic and other, and/or finances. The different avenues into the field of education lead to numerous kinds of teaching careers, many of which are outside the typical public-school classroom setting. While obtaining a Bachelor of Education is the required prerequisite for many types of education work, exploring other teaching roles, like Teaching Abroad, English as a Second Language, and Early Childhood Education, broadens the options to include some areas not requiring a B.Ed.

Earning a degree in education is the best route to the classroom since the majority of teaching jobs require a B.Ed. Even without a formal education degree, you will probably need to be certified in your province or territory in order to teach. And in most cases, you will need at least a bachelor's degree in another subject or some job-specific training in order to become certified.

However, if a teaching degree is not an option for you, here are some other possible paths:

- **Help fill a teaching shortage.** In some special cases, you can teach without having an education degree, but you probably won't have a permanent position. People are sometimes needed to fill a temporary shortage, particularly a shortage of substitute teachers. For example:
 - In **Quebec**, a Letter of Tolerance can be issued to a school or district that would like to hire a teacher without a degree in education. This type of letter is only issued in exceptional circumstances, and it's good for one year.

- In **New Brunswick**, a school district can issue a Local Permit to fill a shortage of substitute teachers. You need at least two years of post-secondary education to receive a Local Permit.
- In the **Yukon**, you can apply to be a substitute teacher without a bachelor's degree. You will have to complete a criminal record check as part of the application.
- **Teach in the private school system.** There are over 1,900 private schools in Canada, ranging from religious schools to First Nations schools to sports academies.⁴ (Note that religious schools in Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and Nunavut are part of the public school system, so the regulations for teaching in public schools apply to them.)

Within the private school system, you can teach without an education degree in some provinces or territories. However, you must still apply for certification. For example, in British Columbia, you can apply for an Independent Teaching Certificate, which usually limits a teacher to certain subjects or certain types of schools.

Citation: <https://www.trade-schools.net/ca/articles/become-a-teacher.asp>

SKILLS THAT MATTER

While teaching can certainly be a challenge, it is also one of the most rewarding careers out there. Check out some of the useful skills for teachers to see if there are any areas you need to work on before you become one:

1. Patience

This is likely the single most important skill. Kids can be stubborn, and many lack the inherent respect for authority that we were taught at a young age. Spending a single day in a room full of raucous teenagers is enough to send any human being to the looney bin, which is why every good teacher needs patience in order to find a way to work with his/her students and earn their respect.

2. Adaptability

Different kids learn in different ways, and some lessons need unique teaching tools.

Good teachers know how to **adapt their lesson plan** to their students, so that all the kids learn optimally. This trait can take some experience and practice in a classroom setting, so give it time.

3. Imagination

Whether you teach high school chemistry or kindergarten, nothing is a more effective tool than using your imagination to create new and interesting ways for your students to learn. You may be inspired by the work of another teacher, mentor or a TV commercial - it doesn't matter. All that matters is that you take the initiative to find new ways for your kids to learn the material.

4. Teamwork

Teachers could have a hard time without a wide variety of support staff around them. If you feel alone, your school principal, administrative staff, parent-teacher committee, and more are often available to provide you help. By working as a team, you may have an easier time increasing your students' ability to learn and have fun.

Citation: <http://www.teachercertification.org/a/9-useful-skills-for-teachers.html>

HOW TO GET EXPERIENCE

Volunteer

- Teacher's assistant: Write on Q Bloor West, Toronto, ON
- Assistant Teacher: Family Day Care Services, Mississauga
- Early childhood Assistant: The YMCA of Greater Toronto, ON

Internships

- Afterschool Program Coordinator Internship: Toronto, ON
- Intern – Teachers Innovation Platform, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, Toronto, ON
- Teacher's Assistant: Autism Services Incorporated, ON

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Jobs in Education

The resources below could help you in your job search. School boards in Ontario recruit elementary and secondary teachers using these websites approved by the Ontario Ministry of Education:

- applytoeducation.ca - Linking Teachers With Employers
- educationcanada.com - Canadian Education Job Postings and Job Fair Information
- jobsineducation.com - Your Source of Jobs in Education
- workopolis.ca - Canada's Biggest Job Site.

You can also view jobs available at the College. <https://www.oct.ca/about-the-college/careers>

Transition to Teaching reports track the trends of teacher employment in Ontario and detail the early career and professional development experiences of Ontario teachers. They are published annually. Get informed about job statistics in our [Transition to Teaching](#) studies.

Citation: <https://www.oct.ca/becoming-a-teacher/jobs-in-education>

Create a LinkedIn Profile

Create a LinkedIn profile to connect with professional various fields, explore the career paths of UTM alumni, research employers, apply for specific positions, and more. Need help? Come to the Career Centre to book a LinkedIn profile critique.

CAREER PROFILES

Below are sample job descriptions, plus education and training details, for various areas of teaching outside of the public-school classroom setting.

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Montessori Teacher

Job Description

Montessori education is a teaching method that emphasizes learning through all five senses, not just through listening, watching, or reading. The high level of academic achievement, common in Montessori schools, is a natural outcome of the learning experience in such a supportive environment.

The Montessori model serves the needs of children of all levels of mental and physical ability as they live and learn in a natural, mixed-age group very much like the society they will live in as adults. What sets Montessori education apart is the emphasis on seeing children as they are and creating environments which foster the fulfillment of their highest potential - spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual - as members of a family and the world community.

“Education is not something the teacher does but is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being.”- Dr. Maria Montessori

Unique Skills

Caring, creativity, organization, passion

Education & Training

Montessori teacher training is offered at many Montessori institutions across North America. Training courses are usually split into two or three groupings according to age levels.

Additional Information

Below are links to training information:

<https://www.montessoriteacherscollege.com>

<https://www.montessoritraining.net>

<http://www.montessori.edu>

ESL Teacher

Job Description

Some people speak English in their home countries, but need help writing or understanding our idioms and slang. Others arrive not knowing much more than “hello”. These new additions to our country turn to ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers to help them learn the language.

ESL Teachers are trained to work with students of all ages, from elementary school children to adult learners. They work for all kinds of organizations in Canada and abroad, including elementary and high schools, community colleges, private language schools, and community organizations. ESL teachers have to work particularly hard to help shy or self-conscious students feel comfortable and participate in class. Varied lesson plans, activities, and assignments to motivate students are essential in this setting.

Unique Skills

Patience, Resourcefulness, Additional Language(s)

Education & Training

Requirements to become an ESL teacher vary depending on where an individual wants to work, whether it is at a community college, private language school, or community organization. In most cases, ESL teachers need at least a bachelor’s degree in a related subject such as English with some employers also requiring completion of a recognized ESL certificate or diploma program. It is important to research the different types of courses offered in order to determine which one would be best for you and would meet the requirements of a preferred potential employer.

Additional Information

<http://www.sol-group.net/teachertraining/index.php>

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<https://www.tesl.ca>

<http://www.eslincanada.com>

<http://www.oxfordseminars.ca/tesol-tesl-certification.php>

Early Childhood Education

Job Description

Early Childhood Education (ECE) aims to expose preschool children to experiences and skills that will smooth their transition into grade school. ECE teachers are important early 'jumpstart' educators, teaching children in many areas including fine motor skills development plus early reading and writing. Early childhood education work involves much lesson planning and organization as well as evaluations that document the observation of children and assessment of their specific needs.

ECE teachers study all aspects of child learning and development - cognitive, physical, social, and emotional, training them to be able to plan and design games and activities that are both fun and educational. Teaching the alphabet requires a strategy very different than ones used to teach young children about sharing or acceptable behavior when they get angry or frustrated.

Unique Skills

Creativity, Resourcefulness, Flexibility, Communication, Organization, Patience, Dedication

Education & Training

In order to become a fully-qualified early childhood educator, a diploma, certificate, or degree in early childhood education is required. Diplomas generally take 2 years of full-time study to complete, and can be obtained at colleges across Canada, while Certificate programs often take less than 2 years to complete and are offered at various institutions. Bachelor's degrees take the longest time - normally 4 years. Regardless of the ECE program (diploma, certificate, or degree), some are offered on a part-time basis, which then take longer to complete.

Some colleges offer specialist certificates in areas such as infant and toddler care and special needs, intended for individuals who already have some ECE education wanting to specialize in a particular area. Additionally, there are master's degrees in early childhood education for

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individuals wanting to study a particular area in more depth, wanting to do research in this field and/or teach ECE to others.

Most ECE programs include co-op placements, giving students the opportunity to obtain on-the-job experience while studying.

Additional Information

<https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en>

<https://www.plasp.com>

Further ECE training information can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

Teaching Abroad

Job Description

Teaching abroad includes teaching positions in many disciplines and languages around the world. The majority of positions available for native English speakers are for those willing to teach English as a foreign language. This area of education requires a passion to teach and openness to new cultures.

Unique Skills

Flexibility, open-mindedness, adaptability, patience, communication, creativity

Education & Training

The qualifications required by employers vary widely depending upon the demand and availability of teachers and work visa requirements in specific countries. In many countries, a bachelor's degree is required to be able to work legally, although not necessarily requiring that the degree be in education.

Alternately, some English teaching schools do not require a college degree as long as the teacher is a native speaker. Many competitive employers require a TEFL (Teaching English as a

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Foreign Language) certificate although some schools employ native English speakers without this. Any certification though will help develop skills and prepare individuals for the classroom experience and certificate programs often assist with job placement.

English teach abroad programs do not always require teaching experience but having some increases one's chances of getting hired. Having an education background and experience teaching English as a foreign language leads to limitless options. The US, UK, Australia and many other destinations have highly paid teaching jobs for qualified English-speaking teachers.

Additional Information

<http://www.sol-group.net/teachertraining/tefl.php>

<http://www.oxfordseminars.ca/tesol-tesl-certification.php>

<https://www.teflcourse.net/?gclid=CPeljrDrxaICFYv75wodN39sGg>

Waldorf Teacher

Waldorf education teachers are urged to engage in the educational process in the same three-dimensional manner as the children they will be teaching - *actively, emotionally, and thoughtfully*. The philosophy has them fully present in the classroom and in their preparation, searching for new insights and approaches and evolving throughout their teaching career. Since Waldorf teachers move from grade to grade with their students, teaching a new curriculum each year, they too receive an education, including an understanding of the natural world through subjects like astronomy, meteorology, botany, geology, and zoology. Waldorf education is taught at special schools across the world, accredited schools in North America being members of AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America).

Unique Skills

Expressiveness, Team-work, Caring, Passion

Additional Information

<https://www.oct.ca/becoming%20a%20teacher>

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College/Vocational Teacher

Job Description

College teachers may be required to have post-secondary education and teacher education but may be considered for a teaching position with an acceptable combination of education and experience in a subject area. Teachers of Technological or Vocational Studies may not require a post-secondary degree or B. Ed but must have a secondary school diploma and proof of competence in their field of specialization. Vocational teachers teach in Community Colleges, High Schools, Adult Education Programs, and Private Schools. With many employers looking for workers that can immediately apply studied knowledge in the workplace, and hands-on skills needed in addition to book knowledge, many workers are turning to vocational education for training in the technical aspects of many areas of work.

Additional Information

<https://www.oct.ca/becoming%20a%20teacher>

Citation: <https://public.careercruising.com/en/>

OTHER TEACHING JOBS

Corporate Trainer

Job Description

Corporate trainers plan and present courses or seminars to all levels of an organization's staff and are employed by banks, governments, corporations, and professional training agencies. These educators are often self-employed, working on a contract basis with multiple clients.

Unique Skills

Listening, communication, adaptability, patience

Information about Corporate Trainers can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UofT Career Centre account.

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Foreign Language Instructor

Foreign language instructors teach languages that are spoken primarily in other countries.

Individuals planning to travel to other countries or interested in other languages, or employees of companies that need to learn another language for their work are the typical students for these educators. Like other teachers, these instructors prepare lesson plans, assignments and other materials, teach classes, run discussion groups, supervise classroom activities, evaluate assignments and mark exams. Since their students/clients are unfamiliar with the language, careful attention must be paid to ensuring that their instruction is clear. Foreign language instructors teach students from all age groups and backgrounds.

Unique Skills

Patience, attention to detail, communication, passion

Information about Foreign Language Instructors can be found in Career Cruising, accessed from a UoFT Career Centre account.

Educational Assistant

Job Description

The work of Educational assistants varies depending on the school they work in and the needs of the student and classroom teacher. This type of work is often provided in a one- on-one setting for students needing extra assistance with school activities and tasks. 9

Educational assistants may help students' complete assignments, demonstrate activities, answer students' questions about a lesson given by the teacher, or provide clarification to students. Their work in the classroom is always done under the supervision of the classroom teacher.

Unique Skills

Responsibility, assertiveness, patience

Information about Educational Assistants can be obtained from various institutions that offer training for this kind of work and from Boards of Education that hire individuals in this field.

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Adult Educational Teacher

Job Description

Teachers of literacy and basic education skills instruct adults of all ages in reading, language (written and oral), and math - skills to help solve problems, hold a job, further their education, or get more out of life. Adult Education teachers typically work at Adult Education Centers associated with public school boards, community and learning centers, and sometimes corporate settings. The student is most likely an individual that did not, for one reason or another, finish public school.

Unique Skills

Organization, communication, flexibility

Information about Adult Education Teachers can be found in the UTM Career Centre library (available to UoFT students) and in Career Cruising, accessed from a UoFT Career Centre account.

Citation: <https://public.careercruising.com/en/>

HOW CAN THE CAREER CENTRE HELP?

Library Resources

The Career Resource Library contains information about a wide range of occupations in all industries, resume and cover letter resources, effective work search methods, graduate/professional school preparation guides and more. Below listed are some sample of Career Centre Library Resources:

- Teaching English Abroad: 6th edition by Susan Griffith
- 101 Career Alternatives for Teachers: Exciting Job Opportunities for Teachers Outside the Teaching Profession
- Alternatives to Teaching Career Profile:
<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/careers/pdf/AlternativesToTeaching.pdf>

Appointments

- Attend a one-on-one appointment with a career counsellor or an employment strategist to discuss what career options might work for you and determine a job search plan.
- Meet with an academic or departmental advisor, who can guide you in achieving academic success. Contact the Office of the Registrar or your department for more information.

Career Planning by Year

Visit our Career Planning by Year page for ideas of important career related activities for each year. You can visit us in the Career Centre to find out more about careers that interest you.

The National Occupational Code Binder

The National Occupational Code Binders in the Career Resources Library provide very detailed, specific and extensive information relating to hundreds of careers. From general overviews of the job, to working conditions, to sample job postings related to the field and related articles, the binders are sure to provide you with in-depth answers to many of your job-specific questions.

Tip Sheets

Do you like information in an easy-to-read, easy-to-digest, take home format? Take a look at our tip sheets on subjects like Effective Interviewing, Networking and Preparing for Graduate School.

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Events

Would you like a chance to interact with prospective employers and expand your networking circle? The Career Centre offers a number of events that help you brush shoulders with professional and experts from all fields. Attend the Get Experience Fair, Get Hired Fair, Professionals School Fair and Summer Job Fair. Practice putting those networking skills to use and land yourself a job! Check out the events and workshops section of the Career Learning Network to find out what is happening on Campus. www.clnx.utoronto.ca/home

Extern Job Shadowing Program

Are you still curious about what career path is best for you? Would you like a chance to experience working in an industry to find out if it's really the path for you? The Extern Job Shadowing Program can help. This job-shadowing program grants you a one-to-five-day placement in a career of your choice. Go to the Career Learning Network to register for the workshops that will help you to prepare for your placement. To register go to: www.clnx.utoronto.ca and then go to workshops and events to see when the next workshop is happening.

Career Counselling

Are you feeling lost, unsure and overwhelmed with finding out what career path you would like to choose? Or you've decided on a career or the type of job you want, but what are the next steps? Our career Counsellors are here to help. Book an appointment with one of our professionals who can help you determine what paths you can take after graduation or how your area of study can relate to a career post-grad.

Job Postings

Are you graduating soon or a recent graduate? Sign up for the Graduating Students Employment Service (GES) or the Recent Graduate Employment Service (RGES). These services

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allow you to gain access to full-time job postings while your final year of study or access full-time job postings for up to two years after you graduate. To learn more, check out our Career Centre website.

Please feel free to come and visit us in Room 3094, South Building. You can also reach us by phone, 905-828-5451 or email at careers@utm.utoronto.ca.

CONCLUSION

There are many types of teaching work – some requiring a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), but many that do not. Knowing your interests and strengths, researching the various teaching options, talking to people working in the field and getting first-hand experiences are all critical steps in finding out which, if any, are best suited to an individual.