



Major to Career Guide

Alternative Careers for Teachers/Educators

Introduction

Some students who enter a college program with expectations of becoming a teacher may experience some disappointments in their student teaching experience and feel that the classroom is not a good occupational match for them. Other educators, already in the field, may begin to feel burned out and ready for a career change; however, some may fear change or really do not think there are other employers out there that would hire them. Take heart! There are many career options for teachers and other educators outside the traditional educational institutions. There ARE employers out there that will hire you and value the skills you have developed through your education and work experiences.

First steps

Your interests and values may have changed since you first entered school or since you have been teaching. Taking an assessment to help identify your interests and values can help you with your decisions. Inventories that may help include the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. Interacting on a computer program is also a fun way to clarify your goals and assist you with a plan. Talking to a career counselor can help you with your exploration and the decision-making process.

Once you have identified your interests, values, and aptitudes, research can be done on occupations, salaries, job outlook, and potential employers. Career Counselors are specially trained in human development and keep up with employment trends in order to assist people in the career developmental process. They can interpret your test scores to aid you in your decision making process. The following occupational suggestions involve using the many skills that students, teachers and educators have developed in their academic training and work experiences.

What are some potential occupations?

Training and Human Resource Development

- Benefits/Compensation Manager
- Employment Interviewer
- Equal Employment Opportunity Manager
- Human Resources Director
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Personnel Specialist
- Recruiter, Wage and Salary Administrator

Computers

- Computer Education Publisher
- Computer Publication Coordinator
- Computer Repair and Service Specialist
- Computer Trainer
- Hardware/Software Sales Associate
- Programmer, Technical Writer

Publishing

- Advertising Director
- Art Department Coordinator
- Articles Editor, Circulation Director
- Public Relations Manager, Research Director
- Traffic Manager

Sales and Marketing

- Advertising Sales Representative/Associate
- Insurance Sales Representative
- Stock Broker, Travel Agent

What are some potential occupations? (con't.)

Management in Non-Profit/Foundation

- Director, Fundraiser
- Education, Social Services Coordinator

Broadcasting/Journalism/Public Relations

- Advertising Account Executive
- Art Director
- Program Director
- Newspaper/Magazine Reporter/Editor
- News Reporter
- Public Relations Specialist
- Radio Music Director
- Radio Production Manager
- Radio Research Director
- Radio Script Writer
- Technical Director
- Television News Producer
- Television Production Director

Government Employment

- Administrative Officer
- Budget Analyst
- Criminal Investigator
- Customs Agent
- Immigration Inspector/Examiner
- Language Specialist
- Outdoor Recreational Planner
- Personnel Staffing Specialist
- Public Health Program Specialist
- Radio Operator
- Supply Specialist
- Transportation Specialist

Childcare Administration

- Assistant Director
- Director
- Education Coordinator

Higher Education

- Alumni Director
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Dean of Admissions
- Dean of Students
- Director of Financial Aid
- Director of Student Affairs

Retail Business

- Buyer
- Department Manager
- Fashion Coordinator
- Human Resources Specialist
- Manufacturer's Sales Representative
- Store Manager
- Training Coordinator

Additional information

Within each of the listed categories, there are many more job titles. Your career resource center can provide you with occupational information in each of these areas. It is important that you identify occupations that are in demand and to match your occupational choice with employers that are hiring. To find out about supply and demand of jobs, read the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* and your local/regional job outlook publications. To find out who is hiring, read local business journals, newspapers, and other publications in the library. Your counselor or librarian can assist you with finding the resources that you need. UNC Career Services offers free workshops in resume writing, interview skills, and job searching strategies throughout the year.