



Samford University
Orlean Beeson School of Education

Learn to Lead
Lead to Learn

Department of Teacher Education

Orlean Beeson School of Education empowers its students to educate, lead and serve.

12:1 student-to-faculty ratio | *High-quality Christian education*

Highest number of nationally recognized programs in the state of Alabama

Accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education since **1954**

Samford University's Department of Teacher Education houses teacher education programs with teacher certification available in:

Early Childhood, Special Education, Elementary, Elementary Collaborative

Secondary Education

Elementary Education with a concentration in Christian Education and Missions



Early Childhood, Special Education, Elementary, Elementary Collaborative (ESEC)

Samford's nationally recognized early childhood, special education, elementary, elementary collaborative program is designed to meet the needs of candidates interested in teaching children ages birth through 6th grade in a classroom or other learning setting. Graduates earn a Bachelor of Science.

Candidates are afforded varied and diverse opportunities in authentic settings to gain the necessary knowledge, practical skills and professional dispositions required of today's teachers.

Samford's ESEC program is the only accredited program in the state of Alabama to include 4 teacher certifications in 1 major.

- Early Childhood Education (Preschool–3rd grade)
- Early Childhood Special Education (Preschool–3rd grade)
- Elementary Education (Kindergarten–6th grade)
- Elementary Collaborative (Kindergarten–6th grade)

100% of May 2018 graduates were employed or pursuing graduate studies within seven weeks of graduation.

The ESEC program holds national recognition in both its Early Childhood and Elementary teacher education certification areas.

100% pass rate on national Praxis II licensure tests for program graduates

Samford candidates pursuing this degree will earn Alabama teaching certificates in four areas meaning candidates leave Samford with qualifications for numerous job opportunities.





Secondary Education

The secondary education major is designed for candidates who wish to teach at the middle or high school level 6th–12th grade. By pairing Samford's renowned and rigorous content classes with solid pedagogy and teaching strategies, we aim to equip our graduates to be highly skilled and innovative educators. Students take courses in their chosen content areas along with education courses to be fully prepared to teach middle or high school students.

Candidates have the opportunity to double major in education and one of the following content areas.

English Language Arts • English • Theatre • Speech • Journalism

Social Science • Geography • Economics • Sociology • Political Science • Psychology

World Language *Certified Preschool–12th grade or 6th–12th grade* • French • German • Spanish

Music Education *Certified Preschool–12th grade* • Instrumental • Vocal/Choral

History

Math

The secondary education major gets candidates off campus and in 6th–12th grade classroom settings early and often. Starting as early as freshman year, candidates begin their clinical observations in schools. Additionally, education staff works hard to place candidates in a clinical setting where they can shadow a facilitator of an extracurricular activity of interest.

Elementary Education with a concentration in Christian Education and Missions

The elementary education major with a concentration in Christian education and missions is for candidates who want the flexibility and opportunity to integrate service and teaching in an educational mission setting. The Christian education and missions concentration is open to students throughout the university.

Certification to teach Kindergarten–6th grade

Deeper understanding of Biblical principles and pedagogical strategies

Practical experience to successfully minister to youth and assist them in spiritual formation

Enriched awareness of how to engage families as partners in the spiritual development of children

Broad, multidisciplinary approach to Christian education within the context of a local church or mission field

“Education provides a unique pathway to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations. Being a teacher is not just a career; it’s a calling. As a Christian, my role as an educator is so much more than teaching students reading and math skills. It is investing in the lives of the students I teach so that they experience the love of Christ and the hope we find in Him. Samford’s Orlean Beeson School of Education provided me a strong foundation by equipping me with the tools I needed to go confidently out into the world.”

—Abby J. '17



"During my time at Samford University, I grew immensely and found my passion. I love to teach and I love to watch my students grow. I am thankful for my Samford professors and the Lord's guidance." —*Lauren Hughes '17, Dean's Award recipient*



Internships and Field Experiences

Over the course of four years, candidates have the opportunity to work within at least 10 schools in a variety of diverse settings. Placements are strategic to ensure candidates are experiencing high-quality learning opportunities that enable them to enter their teaching career fully prepared.

Field Experience

Freshman

Candidates who have selected education will gain field experience in a freshman 101 course.

Junior

Candidates continue with field experience and work within suburban and urban districts.

Sophomore

Candidates begin the year with school observations and visits. They move into field experience the second half of the year.

Senior

Candidates begin their clinical internships.

Internships

Internship placement is directed by the Alabama State Department of Education and is focused on quality experiences.

Early Childhood, Special Education, Elementary Collaborative (ESEC)

Preschool ▪ Early Childhood Education ▪ Elementary Education ▪ Special Education

Secondary Education

Middle School ▪ High School

1,000+ hours of field experience

30+ partnering school districts providing diverse and career-building field experiences

600+ hours of internship experience

Student Organizations

Honor Society

Orlean Beeson School of Education is home to the Kappa Delta Pi, international honor society in education, Zeta Theta chapter. Each year, candidates who have completed at least 24 credits of collegiate course work, six of which are education courses, and maintained a grade point average of a 3.0 or higher are eligible for admission.

Junior Dean's Executive Council

The council provides an environment for candidates to collaborate with Orlean Beeson School of Education's dean. This avenue allows candidates to share their perspectives about the school and departments and to offer suggestions for ways in which their learning environment can be enhanced. Candidates who serve on the council participate in events hosted by the school. It is an excellent opportunity for members to network and meet professionals in their field.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

ASCD is a global community of educators dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching and leading. The group's innovative solutions empower educators to promote the success of each child. Membership in Samford's student chapter is a valuable opportunity for candidates to connect with education professionals while transitioning into their own career in education.





“Educators have the responsibility of preparing every other profession. Teachers have an enormous responsibility to prepare the future professionals and leaders of the world. If we fail, society fails.”
—Mandy Jayne (Stanley) Antwine '14, teacher education, National Student Teacher of the Year




Contact us

 **Samford University**
Orlean Beeson School of Education

Karen Birkenfeld, Associate Professor and Teacher Education Chair
205-726-4492 ▪ kjbirken@samford.edu

Daphne Carr, Certification Officer and Adviser
205-726-2566 ▪ drcarr@samford.edu

 SamfordEd

 @SamfordEd

 SamfordEducation

samford.edu/education

Samford University Orlean Beeson School of Education
800 Lakeshore Drive ▪ Birmingham, AL 35229

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution/Employer.