

# Education Studies and Human Relations, BA

The education studies and human relations major in the College of Education blends the principles of education with the dynamics of human interactions. This multidisciplinary program enhances broad liberal arts and sciences education for students who want to make a difference in professions related to helping, learning, and instruction while building strong, positive relations, effective communication, and leadership skills.

This major focuses on foundational knowledge from both education studies and human relations. Students explore the foundations of how people learn beyond the traditional classroom and how to support them in that process, how to work effectively with a variety of people, and how systems of education affect how people are supported. Elective coursework allows students to gain an additional understanding of how people learn and grow by engaging in coursework that focuses on the study of instructional design, human development, communication, diverse perspectives, and learning how to manage and improve interpersonal relationships.

Students who plan to earn the major pursue their academic interests with a variety of courses from across the College of Education's four academic departments to further career goals or prepare for future graduate study. They may choose to select among all the course offerings for the education studies and human relations major or select one of two subprograms.

The education studies subprogram is for students interested in pursuing careers in higher education, nonprofit organizations, companies that develop training, learning technology companies, health care settings, community organizations, school district support roles, and informal learning spaces such as nature environments, maker spaces, museums, and athletic teams, as well as competitive preparation for future graduate study in learning sciences, educational measurement, education policy, educational psychology, higher education, and student affairs.

The human relations subprogram is for students who are interested in careers in helping fields that rely on interpersonal communication and personal problem solving (e.g., addiction, case management), as well as competitive preparation for future graduate study in professional counseling, health service psychology, couple and family therapy, community leadership, and related fields.

## Learning Outcomes

- **Theoretical Foundations:** Develop a deep understanding of psychological, educational, and social theories to analyze human behavior and cognition, assessment techniques, and conceptual models.
- **Applied Principles and Strategies:** Apply principles and strategies for the benefit of individuals as appropriate for particular groups and contexts related to a selected concentration area.
- **Research and Scientific Methods:** Enhance students' ability to critically evaluate and apply scientific research

outcomes and methodologies in a variety of educational and psychological contexts.

- **Skills for Helping Professionals:** Develop interpersonal and problem-solving skills to understand particular psychological, counseling, and educational issues of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and the systems in which they are embedded so to support their personal growth and advocate for their well-being.
- **Instructional Design and Learning:** Empower students to design effective learning environments using and evaluating evidence-based instructional strategies and technologies, fostering meaningful formal and informal educational experiences.
- **Ethical and Social Considerations:** Foster an awareness of ethical, cultural, and social issues, encouraging supportive practices for all learners and responsible decision-making in educational and professional settings.