

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

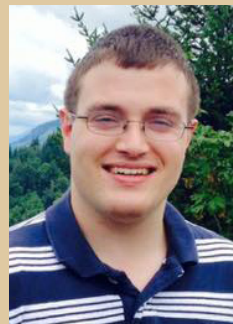


What role does education play in society? In Swarthmore's Department of Educational Studies, we explore that question through a liberal arts lens, preparing students for futures in the classroom and beyond.

Our interdisciplinary approach to education encourages critical thinking about teaching and learning in an era of increasing diversity and technological change. Distinctive course offerings, such as the popular “Pedagogy and Power: An Introduction to Education,” address topics of value to students across the College.

Students in all disciplines enroll in our courses, which are designed to challenge their thinking about research, theory, policy, and practice. With a focus on teaching for social justice, Educational Studies courses explore issues in urban education and urban policy, learning and motivation, literacy, bilingual education, youth studies, black and ethnic studies, and comparative education.

These same courses also serve students who choose to pursue Pennsylvania state certification, which is directly reciprocal with most other states. Programs for secondary certification are designed with guidance from faculty in the discipline in which the student is being certified.



Elias Blinkoff '17

Psychology and educational studies

“I was able to explore the intersection between developmental psychology, language, and education from multiple perspectives, and I ultimately found my academic niche in the middle of that intersection.”

WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAM UNIQUE

- Students can pursue a **major** in Educational Studies or a **special major** that integrates students' Educational Studies work with that of most other departments and programs at the College. Honors is available to all majors, special majors, and minors.
- **Study abroad options** include recognized education coursework in such countries as the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Hungary, and Chile.
- A **“Ninth Semester”** option allows students to return to campus after graduation to complete the teacher certification program.





RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

In each Educational Studies course, students read and use qualitative and quantitative methods of research. In addition to studying and conducting original research in classes, students have opportunities to collect and analyze educational data through independent research and in partnerships on faculty projects. Many such collaborations have led to student-faculty co-authored articles, chapters, and presentations.

POSTGRADUATE PATHS

Students who pursue coursework in Educational Studies go on to become leaders in a wide range of fields. Among the first career stops our graduates have made after Swarthmore:

- Legal advocate, Urban Justice Center, New York
- Field supervisor, Green Mountain Club, Vermont
- Paralegal, Manhattan D.A.'s Office, New York
- Computer Science Advocate, Code.org, Seattle
- Business analyst, Deloitte Consulting, New York
- Associate, CommunicationWorks, Washington, D.C.
- Behavior therapist, Minnesota Autism Center
- Teacher, School District of Los Angeles

Long-term careers of Educational Studies students include K–12 and higher ed teaching, school administration, medicine, law, and many more.

“My coursework in education has prepared me to think critically about the way that I frame knowledge and history. I have learned to become a culturally responsive educator in the classroom, and in interacting with families, school administration, and the community.”



ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

Combining research and practice is an important aspect of Educational Studies, which is why the majority of our classes include a distinctive fieldwork component.

By working directly with area schools—as observers, classroom assistants, or researchers—students develop a deeper understanding of the many issues present in education and society.

Faculty projects

Our faculty, too, participate in engaged scholarship, partnering with local schools and communities to conduct their own research. Recent project topics have included:

- Tracking positive educational pathways for black boys
- Creating effective bilingual education programs
- Developing staff-student learning collaborations
- Coordinating the Philly Children’s Movement

Community partnerships

Special projects between our department and area schools offer opportunities to collaborate and share resources. Among them:

- Barrio Ed Project
- Teachers as Scholars
- Youth Court, Chester-Upland School District
- Science for Kids

