

WILLIAMS PROGRAM IN TEACHING

Director: SUSAN ENGEL

The program in teaching is designed to enable Williams Undergraduates to study the ideas, questions, and practices involved in good teaching at all levels. The program seeks to promote and facilitate an exchange of ideas about teachers, learners and schools, within and beyond the Williams campus. The program offers a range of opportunities including courses on education, intensive supervised student teaching, workshops, advising, lecture series, and ongoing peer groups for those who teach. Students may participate in a variety of ways, ranging from taking one course to a sustained in-depth study of teaching and learning geared to those who want to become teachers, or educational psychologists. We seek to connect students with one another, to bring in expert teachers to provide mentoring, and to create links across the curriculum so that students can see the vital connections between what they study (French, Algebra or Biology for instance) and the process of teaching those topics to elementary and high school students. The program is open to any student interested in education and offers opportunities for all levels of interest, including those who want to find out about certification and graduate study.

The following provides a sample outline of the sequence of courses and experiences that an interested student might take:

PSYC 101 Introductory Psychology (required for further psychology courses);

PSYC 232 Developmental Psychology and/or

PSYC 242 Social Psychology;

PSYC 272 Psychology of Education;

PSYC 327 Cognition and Education

PSYC 332 Mathematical Development

PSYC 338 Inquiry, Invention and Ideas

PSYC 372 Advanced Seminar in Teaching and Learning

At least one Winter Study in an intensive teaching practicum. The major programs are in Berkshire County (under PSYC) or in New York City (under SPEC), although other opportunities may be listed elsewhere in the Winter Study section of the course catalogue.

No specific major is required to participate in the program—although some lend themselves easily to certification, such as Mathematics, English, Biology, American history, or French, almost all of our majors can provide the basis of teacher certification. Alternately, students can major in Psychology, take a concentration of courses in a different field, and then pursue that content area more intensively in graduate work.

Other courses of interest include:

MATH 285 Mathematics Education

PHIL 331 Contemporary Epistemology

PHIL/AMST 379 American Pragmatism

PSCI 410 Senior Seminar in American Politics: Civic Education in America

PSYC 341/WGSS 339 Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination

PSYC 350 Child Psychopathology

PSYC 351 Childhood Peer Relations and Clinical Issues