



# Careers in Uncertain Times, Turning Programs Into Careers

Opportunities in the Field of  
Education and Social Work

# How do I know if these fields might be a good fit?

- Do you adapt well to change?
- Are you a good listener?
- Can you work well independently and with others?
- Do you like helping other people?
- Do you have good communication skills?
- Can you read non verbal social cues?
- Are you able to control emotional responses?
- Can you deal with bureaucracies?
- Do you want to make a difference in the lives of others?

# Top Reasons for Becoming A Teacher

- Making a difference
- Inspired by a teacher
- Igniting love for learning
- Working with kids
- Giving back to the community

# Why A Degree in Teaching?

## Job Outlook is strong

- Especially in ‘high need’ areas such as special education, bilingual elementary, secondary math or science
- Excellent benefits & family-friendly schedule
- \$30,000-\$60,000 salary range (upon earning B.A. degree)

# Why an AA Degree in Teaching?

- Benefits of the Degree
  - Designed for transfer to Bachelor's degree
  - Several programs for financial assistance (Teacher Loan for Service, Teacher Loan Forgiveness)
  - Job opportunities as educational assistant, substitute teacher, or teacher (in early childhood)

# What are the options in teaching?

- Early Childhood (Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)
- Elementary (K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Elementary, Bilingual
- Secondary (7-12)
  - Career & Technical Education
- Special Education (PreK-12)

# Associate of Arts in Early Childhood

- Benefits of the Degree
  - Embedded certificate to credential you as early childhood teacher in a private setting (must be working in the field)
    - ECME 1104, ECME 1108, ECME 2204, & ECME 2206
  - ½ the coursework is early childhood
  - Transfers to any institution in the state that offers the early childhood degree
  - Strong national and state interest in trained early childhood educators (Example: NM PreK Initiative)

# Associate of Arts in Early Childhood

- Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Concentration
  - Lead teacher in early childhood setting
- Early Childhood Administrator Concentration
  - Director of early childhood center
- Family, Infant, Toddler Concentration
  - Home visitor, early intervention specialist

# Why get a degree in Social Work?

- Job Outlook is excellent.
  - NM “imports” individuals with degrees in social work to fill our needs.
  - Employment is projected to increase by 22-30% over the next decade
  - Job prospects particularly good if specialize in the aging population or work in rural areas (New Mexico!).
  - Salary ranges from \$32,000-\$48,000.

# Child, Youth & Family Development: Social Work Concentration

- Benefits of the Degree
  - Several options for fulfilling requirements that can be tailored to fit your interests
    - Sample electives: CDV 1107: Art & Play, ECME 2206: Family & Community Collaboration, SOC 2216: Ethnic & Minority Groups, PSY 2289: Death & Dying, CJ 1101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
  - Fully transferable to NMHU's Bachelor's Degree in Social Work
  - 2 + 2 = Bachelor's Degree in Social Work  
+ 1 = Master's Degree in Social Work

# What can I do with a degree in Social Work?

**Child, family and school social workers**

**Mental health and substance abuse social workers**

**Medical and public health social workers**

# Are there opportunities with just an AA Degree in Social Work?

- These opportunities are limited. However, those who employ **social and human service assistants** often give preference to individuals with “related degrees” such as an associate of arts in Social Work.
- Social and human service assistants help social workers, health care workers, and other professionals to provide services to people.

# Questions?

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