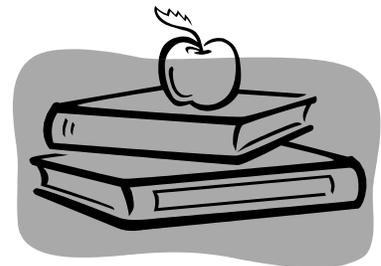




ALTERNATIVES TO TEACHING



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OVERVIEW

Teaching is a valuable and rewarding career, but its demands are not for everyone. Luckily, the field of education is broad and overlaps into other areas – many careers involve a component of education!

There are a number of important factors to consider when making a career decision, such as your interests, personality, values and skills. You may be interested in the field, but not in the idea of running a classroom, or perhaps, you initially wanted to teach but, through volunteer experience, discovered that you do not enjoy working with children, or that it simply is not the career for you after all. Either way, the following should help you recognize the many options that lie before you, as well as give you something to think about.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR TEACHING DEGREE, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TEACH

As rewarding as a career is in education, classroom teaching is not always the final – or the only – destination for educators. While the reasons for leaving the classroom – or avoiding it altogether – may

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be a personal and complex, but what's easy to see is how rewarding the alternative path to a career in education can be.

It might seem like a no-brainer that if you earn a teaching degree that you'll work as a teacher. But after a while you might be wondering if there are alternative jobs for teacher, outside the classroom. The good news is that teachers have many transferrable skills that are valued across many industries. Holding a teaching degree may qualify you for jobs in business, non-profit organizations, publishing, government and so on.

LET'S TALK SKILLS

Before, looking into these alternatives, it is essential to be aware of certain factors – What aspects of teaching appeal to you? What are you looking for that teaching does not provide? What goals do you wish to achieve through your career? What additional training and/or education will you require? What is your skillset and how would you like to use it?

It is important to be aware of the skills that you have developed. Such skills are gained through various experiences, which may include part time work, summer placements, volunteer positions and education. Employers are always looking for individuals who are able to transfer their skills from past working environments to a particular job – specific requirements can be taught, but they value employees who are able to apply strong general skills developed elsewhere, such as a communication, to a current position.

While preparing for a career in education, it is important to remember that the skills you have developed through your experiences, which may include in-class volunteering, tutoring, facilitating day camp, etc., are skills which can be transferred to various other careers. Analyze your work, volunteer and extra-curricular activities – what skills did you gain? If this is challenging to do, consider making an appointment with a Career Counsellor who can help you with this analysis.

- Ability to work as a part of a team
- Analytical thinking
- Communication
- Instructing
- Leadership

- Multi-tasking
- Monitoring
- Motivational
- Organization
- Speaking skills
- Time management
- Flexible and willing to change

WHAT ARE MY CAREER OPTIONS?

There are a multitude of careers that combine aspects of Teaching with other professions, allowing for numerous dynamic occupations which may appeal to anyone interested in the field of education. The following is a list of various alternative careers to teaching with the relevant transferable skills noted.

<p>“Alternative Teaching Situations”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison Facility Teacher (active listening, interpersonal skills, monitoring) • Adult & Vocational Education Teacher (instructing, listening, monitoring) • School Media Specialist (instructing, inspiring, planning) • Teaching Overseas (instructing, monitoring, implementation, planning) • Tutor (instructing, monitoring, implementation, planning) • Foreign Language Instructor in the Private Sector or Language School (instructing, inspiring, verbalizing, monitoring) • Driving School Instructor (instructing, inspiring, verbalizing, monitoring) • Music School/Conservatory Teacher (instructing, inspiring, listening, monitoring)
<p>“Other Careers in Education”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Advisor (instructing, interpersonal, monitoring, using good judgment) • Guidance Counsellor (communication, mediation, active listening, critical thinking, monitoring) • Curriculum/Content Developer (writing, communication, collaboration, creativity, instructing, monitoring) • Child & Youth Worker (communication, mediation, active listening, critical thinking, monitoring, planning & implementation) • Education Consulting/Public Speaking (instructing, inspiring, interpersonal, planning, implementing)
<p>“Being in Charge”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Day-Care Coordinators (organization, leadership, communication) • Properties/Facilities Manager (supervising, inspecting, maintaining) • Child-Care Director (communication with parents, organization, social perceptiveness) • Education Director (motivating, active listening, social perceptiveness) • Activity Director in a nursing or retirement home (organization, interpersonal skills, implementation, planning, monitoring) • Sales Manager (service orientation, monitoring, visioning)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Administrator (supervising, budgeting, problem-solving) ● Retail Sales Manager (time management, monitoring, operations analysis)
<p>“The Business World”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertising/Marketing Consultant (writing skills, ability to develop and explain new ideas) ● Personnel and Labour Relations Specialist (analyzing, overseeing, investigating) ● Executive Search Recruiter (investigating, evaluating, discovering)
<p>“The Business World” (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Planner (estimating, budgeting, counselling) ● Insurance Claims Representative (estimating, investigating, computing) ● Insurance Underwriter (ability to make difficult decisions, good written skills, ability to explain yourself) ● Insurance Agent (estimating, interviewing, calculating) ● Real Estate Agent/Broker (mathematical, people skills, time management) ● Sales Representative (ability to explain new concepts, investigating, strong interpersonal skills)
<p>“Using Communication Skills”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Business Plan Writer (organization, English proficiency, negotiation skills) ● Personnel Recruiter (developing, verbalizing, discovering) ● Customer Service Representative (English proficiency, interpersonal, problem solving) ● Translator (patience, interpreting, translating) ● Fundraiser (ascertaining, motivating, explaining) ● Convention Specialist (monitoring, verbalizing, scheduling)
<p>“Computer ‘R’ Us”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computer Programmer (computer literacy, logical/mathematical skill, problem solving) ● Webmaster (computer knowledge, investigative talent, ability to develop new ideas) ● Computer Trainer/Tutor (motivating, overseeing, inspiring) ● Internet Content Developer (creativity, computer skills, ability to meet deadlines) ● Internet Security Specialist (flexibility, problem solving, eye for detail) ● Computer Network Administrator (patience, supervising, computer knowledge) ● Online Researcher (research skills, linguistic intelligence, editing) ● Computer Support Service Owners (developing, computer skills, patience) ● Web Site Editor (eye for detail, language proficiency, computer knowledge) ● Computer and Video Game Designer (creativity, development skills, ability to conceptualize)

Updated: October 2019

“The Entrepreneur’s Life”

- **Interior Designer/Decorator** (creativity, good listening skills, communication)
- **Small Business Owner** (time management, critical thinking, monitoring)
- **Bed and Breakfast Owners** (social perceptiveness, marketing knowledge, active listening)
- **Party Planner/Children’s Party Planner** (active listening, solution appraisal, service orientation, creativity)
- **Caterer** (time management, implementation planning, marketing knowledge)
- **Wedding Consultant** (implementation planning, patience, creativity)
- **Internet Entrepreneur** (ability to develop ideas, computer literacy, motivating skills)

Miscellaneous

- **Lobbyist** (social perceptiveness, communication, motivating)
- **Demographer** (analysis, information gathering, communication)
- **Actuary** (organization, interpersonal skills, critical thinking)
- **Real Estate Appraiser** (estimating, math skills, evaluating)
- **Professional Organizer** (good listening skills, ascertaining, classifying)

Miscellaneous (cont.)

“The Noble Public Servant”

- **CSIS Agent** (communication, judgment and decision making)
- **Security Consultant and Technician** (visioning, trouble-shooting, problem identification)
- **Animal Control Officer** (reading comprehension, ability to write reports, interpersonal skills)
- **Public Relations Specialist** (information organization, service orientation, critical thinking)
- **Religious Vocation** (active listening, time management, social perceptiveness)
- **Flight Attendant** (service orientation, interpersonal skills, problem identification)
- **Urban Planner** (developing, coordinating, budgeting)
- **Postal Service Worker** (organization, interpersonal, time management)

“Publish or Perish”

- **Book Editor** (eye for detail, computer literacy, motivational)
- **Columnist** (communication, time management, writing)
- **Technical Writer and Editor** (critical thinking, information gathering, motivational)
- **Grant Coordinator and Writer** (communication, computer skills, problem solving)
- **Indexer** (information organization, computer literacy)
- **Literary Agent** (communication, creative thinking, reasoning)

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“Let the Games Begin!”

- **Scriptwriter** (listening, writing and evaluation skills)
- **Copywriter** (working under pressure, flexibility)
- **Writer** (creativity, organization, communication)
- **Adventure Travel Specialist** (critical thinking, listening skills, creativity)
- **Athletic Coach** (developing, motivating, preparing)
- **Recreation Worker** (overseeing, coaching, scheduling)
- **Park Ranger** (inspecting, analyzing, leadership)
- **Activity Director** (organization, adaptability, leadership, interpersonal)
- **Sports Management Professional** (motivation, supervising, management)
- **Travel Agent** (organization, listening, efficiency)
- **Personal Trainer** (active listening, problem identification, speaking)

Did you see some career titles that interest you?

If so, pay a visit to the Career Centre and browse through the resource library and/or ask a Career Assistant for some help in researching these options.

If not, come in to the Career Centre and make an appointment with a Career Counsellor who can assist you with planning your career.

CAREER PROFILES

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Job Description: Not everyone learns at the same pace or in the same way. Special education teachers are trained to work with students who need more individual attention than they can get in a regular classroom.

Some special education students have learning disabilities. Others have physical disabilities, behavioral or psychological disorders, or hearing, visual, or speech disabilities. Special educators may specialize in working with a specific disability group, but in most schools, they work with students from at least two or three different groups. These educators develop and adapt course materials and classroom activities according to the individual needs of their students.

The exact work of a special educator varies depending on the type of disability a student has. For students with mild or moderate learning disabilities, the teacher would follow a standard education curriculum, but at a slower pace. Teachers working with students who have attention and behavior problems may have to vary the tasks assigned to the students frequently, or concentrate on tasks that interest those students most.

Updated: October 2019

Special education teachers often use new technologies to assist students, particularly those with physical disabilities. For instance, they may teach Braille keyboarding to visually impaired students, or use captioned videos to improve the literacy skills of students who are hard of hearing.

Most special educators teach the subjects you would find in any other classroom, including science, math, reading, art, and gym. Depending on the needs of their students, however, they may also teach daily living skills, such as interacting with others, or balancing a chequebook. They also give their students tests, write progress reports, and meet regularly with parents to discuss students' progress.

Special education teachers often have classes of their own. However, many schools try to include special needs students in general education classrooms whenever possible. In these schools, special educators may be based in special resource centers, where special needs students go for some subjects. Or, the special educators may assist special needs students in general education classes.

The majority of special education teachers work with elementary, middle, and secondary school students. However, some specialize in working with infants and toddlers. These special educators are likely to work in private homes or at hospitals.

Education and Training: A Bachelor of Education (B. Ed) degree with a specialization in special education is required to work at an elementary, middle, or high school.

Once you have obtained a B. Ed, you can study special education further by completing post-graduate work. Many colleges and universities across the country offer post-graduate programs in special education, including certificate and diploma programs.

CORPORATE TRAINER

Job Description: Even the most seasoned business professional requires additional training from time to time. Changes in technology, business practices, management techniques, and even a company's products can mean that a company's staff needs more training. The people who provide this training are known as corporate trainers, instructional designers, training specialists, or staff training officers.

Corporate trainers plan and present courses or seminars to all levels of a company's staff, from workers right up to senior executives. They are employed by banks, governments, corporations, and professional training agencies. Some trainers are self-employed and work on a contract basis with one or more businesses.

Organizations employ trainers to teach a wide variety of subjects, including computers, software programs, safety procedures, and the operation and maintenance of special equipment. Corporate trainers are also called in to teach things like new product information, sales techniques, and management skills.

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Corporate trainers work with the management of an organization to help determine what training will benefit the staff. Like college and university professors, they may research and assemble the information necessary to teach courses. They decide on the length of the program and the size of the classes, and design the lessons plans, assignments, and tests. Trainers may instruct training technicians to lead the course or they may teach it themselves.

In some cases, trainers will help individual staff members decide on their own training requirements by researching and recommending appropriate seminars offered by business schools or other institutions.

Trainers who are self-employed also have to promote and sell their services to clients.

Education and Training: Many corporate trainers are people who have developed an area of special expertise, for instance, in public speaking, management, sales, or technology. After working for some time in a particular field, they then move into teaching their skills or knowledge in a corporate setting. Therefore, the required education for this type of corporate trainer depends on their area of expertise and what they'll be training people to do.

Other corporate trainers are people who may not have an area of special expertise, but have excellent written and verbal communications skills. They usually begin in training departments in large organizations, working closely with human resources specialists. They may help a company identify the training needs of its employees, research trends in workforce development, or research and coordinate training programs. After learning about the organization and human resources in general, they may then begin training employees in general areas such as communication or teamwork.

Liberal arts, social sciences, business, education, and communications degrees are all good preparation for teaching in corporate settings. A master's degree in education or instructional design may be required for certain positions.

Excellent written and verbal communications skills are essential.

CHILD AND YOUTH WORKER

Job Description:

Growing up can be hard, even when you live in a stable family environment. So imagine what it's like for young people who come from troubled backgrounds. They need special support and guidance. Child and youth workers are there to provide it.

Updated: October 2019

Child and youth workers aren't psychiatrists or social workers. They have formal training in counselling, but their role is more like a combination of a counsellor, parent, mentor, and friend. The young people they work with often have problems that originate from home situations, substance abuse, or trouble with the law. Some have developmental or medical conditions that affect their behaviour.

Youth workers use different kinds of talk therapy to help their clients change and manage their attitudes and behaviour. They counsel clients one-on-one and in group therapy sessions. In group therapy, young people can tell their stories, share advice, and support each other. Sessions focus on helping clients address problems such as aggression, depression, or addiction.

In addition to counselling, child and youth workers plan and coordinate activities for the young people they work with. They may organize sports, arts, and theatre groups, or local trips or tours. Many also assist unemployed youth with finding jobs and staying employed.

All the programs they plan are designed to help young people look after themselves, manage their personal relationships, set goals, and make positive life decisions. The trusting and meaningful relationship that develops between a youth worker and his or her client is part of what makes the treatments effective.

Child and youth workers monitor their clients' progress carefully, keeping records and writing reports. They also provide support and information to their clients' families.

Education and Training: The minimum educational requirement to become a child and youth worker is usually a diploma in child and youth care. Programs are available at colleges across the country and typically last 2 to 3 years. Many programs require students to complete one or more supervised field placements to gain on-the-job training.

Generally, however, salaries are higher for those who have a bachelor's degree in this area or in a related field, such as social work, psychology, or sociology. In addition, if you want to be able to move into a supervisory or management position, you will likely need at least a bachelor's degree.

A bachelor's or master's degree is also necessary to get into other professional social service careers such as social work or marriage and family counselling.

CURRICULUM SPECIALIST

Job Description: We all know that teachers are responsible for passing knowledge on to their students. But how do teachers know what to teach their students, or even which textbooks to use? This is where curriculum specialists come in.

Curriculum specialists—also known as instructional coordinators—play a major behind-the-scenes role in the education system. They determine what students should be taught, choose the textbooks and other learning materials that will be used, and provide training for teachers.

People in this field may work at any level of the education system, from elementary and high school to the postsecondary level. Some specialists work for individual schools or school districts, while others work for provincial education departments. While curriculum specialists' exact duties may differ depending on their employer, their goals are the same: to help teachers provide the best education possible to their students.

One of their most important duties is to set, review, and improve school curricula (that is, what is taught in the classroom). They evaluate how effective the school's educational program is in meeting the needs of the students, and make improvements where necessary. This process involves a great deal of research, as well as consultations with teachers and administrators. It is common for specialists to concentrate on working within a specific subject area, like math or English.

Curriculum specialists also help teachers implement the curriculum by providing them with the necessary educational materials, including textbooks, software programs, and movies. Specialists evaluate the materials, decide which are the most useful, and then make them available to their school or district. They may also help implement new technology.

In addition, curriculum specialists provide training to teachers. They ensure teachers are kept up to date on the latest curricula, teaching strategies, and classroom technologies. This often involves planning and leading conferences or seminars.

Depending on their employer and responsibilities, curriculum specialists may also provide teachers with information on province-wide policies and regulations; ensure schools are meeting provincial or district standards; evaluate educators' teaching methods; and develop instructional materials and testing methods for use by teachers.

Education and Training: The minimum requirement for curriculum specialists is a bachelor's degree, usually in education. However, most employers prefer to hire specialists who have a master's degree in education, curriculum and instruction, or a related field.

Updated: October 2019

It is important to note that you are unlikely to obtain a position as a curriculum specialist straight out of university. It is common for specialists to move into the position after spending several years working as a teacher or education administrator.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

Job Description: Foreign language instructors teach languages that are spoken primarily in other countries. Spanish, Japanese, Italian, Arabic, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, German, and Hindi are just a few examples of these languages. Students or clients of foreign language instructors can include everyone from young children to businesspeople and diplomats who want to work in other countries.

Like other teachers, foreign language instructors prepare lesson plans, assignments, and other materials. They teach classes, run discussion groups, and supervise classroom activities. They also evaluate assignments and exams. Because their clients are often new to the language they are learning, instructors must ensure that their instruction is clear.

Foreign language instructors do more than teach grammar, pronunciation, and writing. They also introduce their students to the culture surrounding the language they are studying. This might include activities like reading popular magazines or listening to radio broadcasts in the language, visiting a cultural center, or even travelling to a country where the language is spoken. Learning another language is never simply a matter of translating words; it requires opening oneself to other ways of understanding the world.

Depending on the type of position they hold, foreign language instructors may have additional duties. For example, they might attend staff meetings, serve on committees, and meet with parents. They may also participate in professional development activities to keep current in their field. Many advise students on their academic programs and career decisions.

Education and Training: There are several different educational options for those who wish to teach foreign languages in Canada.

To work as a university or college professor, a PhD in the language you wish to teach is usually required, though some part-time or lecture positions may be open to those without a full PhD, depending on the educational institution.

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To teach at a high school, you must normally get a Bachelor of Education degree. This can be achieved by completing a bachelor's degree (usually in the language you wish to teach) and then attending teacher's college.

There are no pre-set requirements to work at a private language school, though most positions ask for some level of post-secondary education. Exact requirements vary by employer. For instance, some employers look for a bachelor's degree in education or a related field, while others will hire candidates who have completed a university or college education in any area.

Government employees generally need at least a bachelor's degree.

LIBRARIAN

Job Description: Thanks to today's information technologies, we have instant access to more information than ever before. Faced with such vast amounts of data, we often need the help of professionals who can organize and evaluate it. To help us find and use the information we need, we turn to the original information experts: librarians.

Librarians perform a range of tasks. They answer patrons' questions and help them find and evaluate information. They instruct them on how to access library and web-based resources, including books, periodicals, digital collections, and the Internet. Librarians ensure that the information they help collect is appropriate and comes from a reliable or expert source.

Librarians are also responsible for developing and managing their library's inventory. They decide which print, audio-visual, and licensed electronic resources, such as online research databases, would be most useful to acquire. They order new materials and review current holdings to decide what can be discarded.

The type of library they work in can affect the day-to-day tasks of librarians. Public librarians get to know the communities they serve, and develop collections according to the needs and interests of people in the area. **School librarians help teachers choose materials for their courses.** They also **teach students** how to do research for class projects and how to evaluate and use the information they find.

Academic librarians develop, organize, and provide access to collections for university and college students, faculty, and researchers. Large universities may have separate libraries to serve specific schools or departments, such as law or music.

Updated: October 2019

Special librarians work at libraries that are maintained by organizations like government departments, banks, corporations, law firms, hospitals, and advertising agencies. They create and maintain databases, gather information about competitors and markets, and write up analyses or summaries of subjects of interest to their organization.

All librarians are active in fighting for freedom of access to information, protesting censorship, and promoting literacy and life-long learning.

Education and Training:

To become a librarian, you have to earn a bachelor's degree and then do a special master's program in library and information studies. These programs are usually 1 to 2 years long, and generally lead to a Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) or a Master of Information Studies (MI/MIS) degree.

You can get into a library studies master's program with a bachelor's degree in almost any field. However, your area of study may influence your opportunities for specializing as a librarian. A science degree, for instance, will increase your chances of getting a position as a medical librarian. A humanities degree will give you a good background for most other library positions. *Usually, school librarians need a Bachelor of Education degree in addition to a master's degree* in library studies. Certified teachers without an MLIS may also earn additional qualifications by completing a librarianship program offered at a Faculty of Education.

Citation: Career Cruising via CLNX

HOW TO GAIN EXPERIENCE

Volunteer

- Programs Volunteer: Cooksville Care Centre
- Special Event Crew Volunteer: Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga
- Adult Literacy Program: Participation House, Markham, ON

Part-time Jobs

- Occasional Teacher: PDSB, Mississauga
- Personal Support Worker: Sienna Senior Living, Mississauga

Updated: October 2019

Create a LinkedIn Profile

Create a LinkedIn profile to connect with professionals in various fields, explore the career paths of UTM alumni, research employers, and apply for specific positions and more. Need help? Come to the Career Centre to book a LinkedIn profile critique

Study Abroad Programs

Study abroad programs serve as an incomparable opportunity to learn. In such programs. You textbook becomes your place of study as you observe and experience what you study first hand. The University of Toronto hosts programs such as Summer Abroad wherein U of T is available through the International Exchange Office. For additional resources on studying abroad please visit

<http://www.studentabroad.com>.

The Canadian Centre for Diversity

The Canadian Centre for Diversity is a leading Canadian provider of youth-based programs that educate against discrimination, prejudice and bias and promote the value of diversity in Canadian society. At the core of their programming is a dynamic series of educational initiatives aimed at Canadian young people. These programs provide opportunities for diverse groups of young people to learn, listen and interact – then take their new-found understanding back to their families and their communities.¹

HOW CAN THE CAREER CENTRE HELLP?

Library Resources

The Career Resource Library contains information about a wide range of occupations in all industries, resume and cover letter resources, effective work search methods, graduate/professional school preparation guides and more.

Appointments

- Attend a one-on-one appointment with a career counsellor or an employment strategist to discuss what career options might work for you and determine a job search plan
- Meet with an academic or departmental advisor, who can guide you in achieving academic success. Contact the Office of Registrar or your department for more information.

¹ For further information about the Canadian Centre for Diversity, and how to get involved, visit their web site online: <<http://www.ccdi.ca/>>

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Career Planning by Year

Visit our Career Planning by Year page for ideas of important career related activities for each year. You can visit us in the Career Centre to find out more about careers that interest you.

The National Occupational Code Binder

The National Occupational Code Binders in the Career Resources Library provide very detailed specific and extensive information relating to hundreds of careers. From general overviews of the job, to working conditions, to sample job postings related to the field and related articles, the binders are sure to provide you with in-depth answers to many of your job-specific.

Tip Sheets

Do you like information in an easy-to-read, easy-to-digest, take home format? Take a look at our tip sheets on subjects like Effective Interviewing, Networking and Preparing for Graduate School.

Events

Would you like a chance to interact with prospective employers and expand your networking circle? The Career Centre offers a number of events that help you brush shoulders with pro professional and experts from all fields. Attend the Get Experience Fair, Get Hired Fair, Professionals School Fair and Summer Job Fair. Practice putting those networking skills to use and land yourself a job! Check out the events and workshops section of the Career Learning Network to find out what is happening on Campus.

Extern Job Shadowing Program

Are you still curious about what career path is best for you? Would you like a chance to experience working in an industry to find out if it's really the path for you? The Extern Job Shadowing Program can help. This job-shadowing program grants you a one-to-five day placement in a career of your choice. Go to the Career Learning Network to register for the workshops that will help you to prepare for your placement. To register go to: www.clnx.utoronto.ca and then go to workshops and events to see when the next workshop is happening.

Talk to Professors

Connecting with our professors can be a great way to explore the different paths a major can lead you to, as well as learn about possible opportunities for research, volunteer, or becoming a TA. Drop by during their office hours or request an appointment.

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Career Counselling

Are you feeling lost, unsure and overwhelmed with finding out what career path you would like to choose? Or you've decided on a career or the type of job you want, but what are the next steps? Our career Counsellors are here to help. Book an appointment with one of our professionals who can help you determine what paths you can take after graduation or how your area of study can relate to a career post-grad.

Job Postings

Are you graduating soon or a recent graduate? Sign up for the Graduating Students Employment Service (GES) or the Recent Graduate Employment Service (RGES). These services allow you to gain access to full-time job postings while your final year of study or access full-time job postings for up to two years after you graduate. To learn more, check out our Career Centre website.

Please feel free to come and visit us in Room 3094, South Building. You can also reach us by phone, 905-828-5451 or email at careers@utm.utoronto.ca.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Name: Laurie Pratt

Grad Year: 1985

Degree: BSc

Program: Psychology

Title: Professor, Social Service Worker program

Industry: Social Science, Education & Religion

Organization: Loyalist College

update: Laurie Pratt is a Professor of a Social Service Worker program.

Laurie Pratt is the Coordinator of Counselling at Loyalist College.

"I provide personal counselling to students attending the college and coordinate duties and workload of the counselling staff. The challenge is keeping things fresh after 17 years of working in this field. The rewards are helping students move past barriers to achieve goals and complete their post-secondary education," says Laurie, who earned an M.Sc. In Counselling in 1987 and a Master of Social Work in 2007.

"It takes enthusiasm, flexibility, a sense of humour, and an ability to take care of yourself while caring for others."

Updated: October 2019

Laurie's previous positions include: Counsellor for E.C. Drury, a school for the deaf based in Milton, Counsellor at Humber College, Counsellor and Manager of Services to Disabled Students at UTM, and Counsellor at Algonquin College. She is also self-employed as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

"Dr. Sandra Trehub was a mentor and greatly influenced my initial decision to go to the US for graduate work. Working with her in her lab on studies focusing on deafness was the reason I choose to do graduate work in counselling, with a focus on deafness. I continue to provide counselling supports to deaf students attending Loyalist College," she says.

"Jobs in the area of deafness are limited so I focused on agencies providing supports to deaf clients. My undergrad degree in developmental psychology along with my graduate degree in deafness enabled me to locate a job in the field quite easily, albeit on contract basis."

Laurie says her key to success has been persistence and flexibility.

"I did a great deal of contract work before accepting a permanent position. What I lost in stability (and contribution to a pension) I gained in various experiences that have made me quite marketable. As well, embrace lifelong learning. In 2007 I graduated with a second master's degree in social work and it was a wonderful experience to go back to school at this stage in my life," she says.