Welcome to Monroe College School of Education! The School of Education is proud to have a special environment for learning which we believe will lead to your success, combining classroom rigor and real classroom experience right from your first education course. Get ready to work hard with us because we believe that all children deserve the best-prepared teachers to help them learn, don’t you?

Starting young children on the path to social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth is a very important career that takes knowledge of psychology, child development and learning theory as well as college level liberal arts. We’re impressed by your choice to help educate the next generation of children and are pleased you chose to study with us here at Monroe.

Did you know that besides being a rewarding career itself, early childhood education can serve as the foundation for many careers in education when you study beyond the undergraduate level? New York State requires certified teachers to earn a master’s degree within 5 years of graduation to maintain their certification. Early childhood teachers can choose to remain in the classroom, or become a specialized educator, such as a bilingual teacher, special education teacher, literacy teacher, social worker or school psychologist, speech therapist and even a school leader like Director or Principal.

So welcome to the start of the best career you could ever imagine. With hard work and our support, you’re ready to soar!

Dr. Anne Lillis, Dean, School of Education

The School of Education shares its missions with that of the college:

- Monroe College provides professional, career-oriented higher education to students from diverse backgrounds.
- We proudly offer access and opportunity to motivated students who desire to enrich their lives in a personalized and supportive environment.
- We provide caring and effective teaching and sustain faculty who are passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated to student success.
- We build on these strengths to prepare graduates for successful careers.

Our mission is guided by core beliefs including a commitment to students, a commitment to a respectful, caring environment, and a commitment to accomplishment.
Overview

At the Monroe College School of Education, we believe in quality early childhood programs from infancy to second grade is essential for effective, long-term learning. The program, founded in 2011, is focused on preparing undergraduates to serve high needs students from diverse backgrounds, helping them to overcome challenges to succeed in school. Our candidates learn on campus, in the field and from full time experienced teachers and other experts in education. Intensive coursework reinforces the latest methods in promoting student development and educational theory is put to real world practice through onsite training in New York schools.

In June of 2014, the school announced the expanding of enrollment into the Bachelor of Science degree program in Early Childhood Education to meet the increased demand for educators created by the introduction of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s universal pre-kindergarten program. Monroe prepares students to meet the qualifications for becoming an early childhood teacher of grades birth to grade 2, including a pre-kindergarten teacher by offering the required bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and assisting with thorough preparation for the state’s new Teacher Certification Exams. Students also gain double the amount of student teaching experience required by New York State, completing more than 500 hours of real-world instruction by working with children at local nursery schools, daycare facilities, and primary schools throughout the course of their studies.

Partnerships

Monroe’s School of Education maintains a partnership with the AmeriCorps Jumpstart Program, an early childhood education organization that trains college students to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods, providing students with the opportunity to complete over 300 hours of teaching experience in pre-kindergarten classes, in exchange for tuition support or a direct salary. Monroe is one of 17 schools in the tri-state area to partner with Jumpstart.

Objectives

Great teachers not only help young people learn, they make a profound, positive impact and change lives. Our Bachelor’s Degree Program in Early Childhood Education strives to develop confident, skilled teachers who will shape the next generation of leaders and thinkers.

Courses will provide graduates with the skills necessary to become humanistic and confident educators. Professors and field work supervisors use theory to inform practice and practice to inform theory from the very first education course the candidates takes. The requirement of double the state mandated hours of student teaching makes our students unusually prepared for what they will experience in their own classroom.
Getting involved beyond the classroom is highly recommended as it will enrich your education, build your network—all while cementing lifelong connections and friends. There are a number of clubs in School of Education and they all welcome and accept new students.

**ABC Education Club**

Dr. Hembach chairs the Education Department’s ABC Activities Club which meets twice a month on Thursday from 11:30 to 12:30. Club activities include raising funds to help those in need in our community, discussions of new information concerning education policies and procedures, getting to know one another to establish a collegial community, as well as hosting events such as an Open House where we disseminate information about our program.

**Mock Trial and Debate Club**

The Mock Trial and Debate Club was formed to compete on the national stage and showcase the academic, dramatic and oratory skills of Monroe College students.

No matter your course study—education, business, culinary or criminal justice—strong speaking and thinking skills are critical assets. In today’s market, employers want to know not only that you have the ability to learn, but that you are able to quickly process and understand new information, to get the job done with minimal direction and supervision. Participation in mock trial and debate embodies all of those abilities and translates to success in the profession of education.

We’ve all seen Law and Order or other entertaining programs on television exaggerating the drama of the courtroom. Now is your chance to learn what really goes on in the courtroom and have an opportunity to put your own spin on Jack McCoy or Johnnie Cochran. Not only will you perform as an attorney, but you will take on the roles of citizens, whether nuns, basketball players, felons or celebrities to help bring cases to life.
Bachelor’s Degree in Education
Monroe College’s Bachelor of Science (BS) in Early Childhood Education focuses on preparing our students for highly trained early childhood careers in public, private schools and early childhood programs.

Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to:

- Work effectively with diverse populations of children in a variety of settings and provide instructional opportunities that are adapted to diverse learners.
- Apply knowledge of early child development to create healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging learning environments for all young children in their cultural contexts.
- Use a variety of diversified instructional strategies and methodologies to encourage the development of reading, writing, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.
- Use formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous intellectual, social and physical development of the high-needs and/or special needs learner.
- Work cooperatively with parents using an understanding of the family as a context for young children’s development.
- Foster relationships with school colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community to support students’ learning and well-being.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**
- Public/Private School Teacher
- Teacher in a Head Start Program
- Teacher in a Pre-school or Early Childhood Center
- Opening up a home or center based Pre-school or Early Childhood Program
Program Career Opportunities

Fieldwork and Student Teaching

We believe that great teachers are developed by the combination of rigorous academics in educational theory and best practices with real classroom experience.

Every education course beginning with Education 101 requires students to complete 20 hours of fieldwork in an early childhood classroom. Each course requires hands on tasks with increasing complexity to enrich and reinforce the topics taught in the education classes and provides valuable real life experience in a variety of early childhood settings. Students may choose an early childhood classroom in their own neighborhood or one in the many local schools we have partnerships with in both the Bronx and New Rochelle to complete this requirement.

During each of the last two semesters, all seniors complete two 10-week courses of student teaching in early childhood classes, reporting to their assigned school to teach alongside a master teacher. Students are placed within our partner schools, which include local public and private schools, to complete more than 200 hours of student teaching each semester. During the second semester of student teacher, all students complete the edTPA, a portfolio exam displaying their skills as teachers that is required for NY State teacher certification.

Alumni Spotlights

Monroe College School of Education is proud to have graduated our first class of graduates in the Spring 2014. Our graduates are working to complete the NY State teacher certification exams but are employed in Universal Pre-K programs for September. We are proud of their accomplishments!
Faculty Profiles

Dr. Anne Lillis, Dean
Dr. Anne Lillis, Dean of the School of Education, joined Monroe College as a education professor in 2012. She received her ED.D. from Teachers College Columbia University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Lillis was Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services for the White Plains City School District and has also been an elementary principal, director of special education and reading teacher. She served as an adjunct instructor for Bank Street College of Education.

Prof. Yolanda Santiago
Yolanda Santiago, EDS, SAS, MS ED, CPC. Yolanda Santiago is professor of graduate and undergraduate education, an educational specialist and consultant, an experienced and certified academic professional coach in New York City and throughout the Northeastern United States. As a licensed teacher, certified administrator, and certified professional coach, Professor Santiago’s 30-year educational passion is to make a difference in the world through compassionate coaching and education.

Prof. Sally Hembach
Dr. Sally Hembach has been an educator for 28 years as a teacher, Pre-K director, principal and professor. She worked with the Archdiocese of New York twenty-six years and has been a professor with Monroe College for almost two years.

Adjunct Faculty

Jasmine Stivala
Suzanne Metscher
Vanessa Daley