

INVENTING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

To become a business teacher, you will need to complete an approved four-year program at a university that has a business teacher education major/concentration. (A college or university may require you to obtain a degree in a program content area [for example, business administration] and then get your teacher's certification.) Some of your courses will be taught by business and education professors and still others by practicing business professionals. You will study a variety of disciplines including...

- accounting
- business law
- career development
- communications
- computation
- economics and personal finance
- entrepreneurship
- information systems
- international business
- management and marketing
- interrelationships of business functions

You will also complete a student teaching experience under the supervision of a local high school teacher and your cooperating business education professor.

Licensure. In some states, you will be required to get concrete, hands-on business experience, perhaps by completing an internship or by participating in a paid cooperative work program, before you can be licensed to teach business education. You may need to pass a national test for certification.

On the job. Once you are licensed, you might decide to teach in either public or private schools. You may have the opportunity to expand your expertise by:

- Becoming a lead teacher or department chair.
- Working with students as a mentor or as an advisor to the local chapter of a business student organization.
- Supervising students in a work environment.
- Working with state education departments.
- Becoming a school or department administrator.
- Developing a mentoring program for students, new teachers, or business education majors.
- Teaching via distance learning technologies.
- Serving in leadership positions on business advisory boards or in business-school-community partnerships.
- Participating in your state and national business education professional associations.

In the summer, you may participate in staff development programs, learning about new and emerging technologies or writing the business education curriculum for your county or state. Or you might decide, as one high school business education teacher did, to have fun—she created and taught a technical adventure camp geared to middle school students.

Expanding your knowledge. After teaching for a few years, you might decide to continue your education as a graduate student, working with a faculty advisor to get the training you need to teach business education in a community college (a master's degree) or university (a doctoral degree). There you might opt to combine your teaching career with a consulting position in industry.

Alternate career paths. If and when you are ready for a break from the classroom, many paths are open to you, including corporate training, management, organizational development, and instructional design for performance improvement. Many of these opportunities will be in traditional face-to-face environments, but some might exist in virtual, or electronic, learning formats.