PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN Education

MINDSET
• Students who want to enter the field of education must first decide if they would prefer to be a teacher, administrator, or counselor.
• You should also consider the costs and benefits of working for a public or private school.
• If you decide that you want to enter education, you should find a way to gain experience.
• Teachers and administrators often are organized, outgoing, and patient.
• Teachers must know the content of what they teach and how to relay it to their students.

ACADEMICS AT HAMPDEN-SYDNEY
• Study what you think you want to teach. Above all else, know your content areas.
• In addition to those classes, you would be wise to enroll in public speaking classes.
• Participate in class discussions and dive into texts, formulas, equations, or experiments. Hampden-Sydney is a good place to practice the skills that you will need in the classroom.
• Students seeking administrative positions can major in any subject.
• Seek the counsel of Dr. Elizabeth Deis in the Rhetoric Department.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE
• Seek experience in teaching, leading, and mentoring kids at the age level you want to teach. Work as a camp counselor, volunteer at church, or run a local youth program.

PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
• Future Educators Club – Typically brings speakers to campus, at least one of whom will be an alumnus, twice a semester for dinner and a talk about careers in education.
• Brown Teaching Fellowship – A $4,000 forgivable loan towards graduate study or certification program for students willing to commit three years to teaching at a public school.
• Southern Teachers Agency in Charlottesville – Visits campus on an annual basis to recruit Hampden-Sydney students for employment at independent schools throughout the region.
• Hampden-Sydney Tutor – Lisa Burns from the Office of Academic Success coordinates many of the opportunities for peer tutoring at Hampden-Sydney.
• Student Leadership – Become a resident advisor or club executive, or join Student Government, student admissions committee, or the Society of 1791 for leadership experience.

POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS
• JET Program – Follow in the steps of several recent graduates by spending a year teaching English in Japan through this program run by the Japanese government.
• Fulbright Scholars – Fulbright offers English teaching grants to over 60 countries worldwide. See Becca Snyder in the Career Education Office for details.
• Teach for America – A highly competitive fellowship that places some of the nation’s top graduates to teach for two years in some of the nation’s lowest income communities.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATORS
• Simultaneous Teacher Certification – Students can pursue their teaching certificates at Longwood while enrolled at Hampden-Sydney for no additional charge. This is the quickest option for students who want to begin teaching immediately following graduation.
• Master’s Degree + Certification – Many programs exist that award students either a Master’s of Arts in Teaching (MAT) or a Master’s of Science in Education (MSE) within 18 months to two years. Sweet Briar and Hollins and other nearby colleges and universities both have such programs.
• Teacher Certification is awarded on a state-by-state basis: check the rules for the state where you want to teach before you enroll in a program.

• Licensure in Special Education – Makes you more attractive at all educational levels.
• No Certification – For students interested in teaching at independent schools, no certificate is required. However, certification may pay off in the long run in terms of salary and promotion.

COLLEGE PROFESSOR OR ADMINISTRATOR
• College Professor – Pursue a doctoral degree in the field that you want to teach.
• College Administrator – An advanced degree is necessary. College presidents often get their doctoral degrees in academic subjects of interest and climb the faculty ladder; others earn doctoral degrees in educational administration and climb the staff ladder. Those seeking top administrator positions should also seek experience with teaching at the collegiate level.

GRADUATE SCHOOL AND CERTIFICATION TESTS
• Praxis Tests – In Virginia, the Praxis 1 (a general knowledge test) is typically required for licensure in public schools. The Praxis 2 designates specialization in a particular subject area. In Virginia, you can teach any subject for which you have passed the Praxis 2 examination.
• GRE – The required test for admission to most graduate programs in education.
A history major, Drew graduated summa cum laude and played center on the football team. He received his license to teach Social Studies and English in Virginia from the University of Richmond and has earned a master’s in educational leadership from VCU. He teaches AP psychology at Deep Run High School, where he received the Henrico County First-Year Teacher of the Year Award in 2008. In 2012, he was named one of Richmond’s Top Teachers by the Henrico Citizen. Drew spends his summers working at Youth Camps in California, New York, and Greece.

John is a 12th-grade government and 11th-grade US history and constitutional law teacher at Menchville High School, and the Class of 2014 Sponsor. John was a member of ODK, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Phi Alpha Delta, and served as a student senator, head resident advisor, and Student Body President. He holds a BA from H-SC in political science, MA from CNU in social science education, and PMCL from George Washington in educational leadership and policy studies. John also owns and operates Axsom Martial Arts—a traditional Okinawa Shorin-ryu Karate-do dojo—where he teaches nightly.

Kristian graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors in biology and was valedictorian of the class of 2001. A member of the 1998-1999 NCAA National Finalist basketball team, Kristian was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. Kristian received a Dean’s Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of Virginia. He has since returned as a professor to H-SC, where he teaches immunology, microbiology, virology, and additional biology courses. Kristian does research on both anti-tumor and anti-viral immunity.

During his junior year Tim began taking education courses at Longwood, which he completed during the fall semester after he graduated from Hampden-Sydney. Tim was a classroom teacher in several schools from 1998 to 2003. He completed his master’s degree in educational leadership and supervision at Radford University in 2003, then became assistant principal at Heritage High School; he was promoted to Associate Principal in the fall of 2007.

A cum laude graduate, Mark earned his BA in history and French and won the Bliss Senior History Award and the Joshua Warren White Award for athletic sportsmanship. Mark was twice captain of the lacrosse team and a member of Chi Phi social fraternity. He holds a Master’s of Arts in Education from The College of William and Mary. Mark became the 10th Head of School at The Williams School in New London, Connecticut, in the fall of 2008 after having served as Head of Upper School and Assistant Head of School from 2004 to 2008.

Lindsay majored in history, played rugby, twice served as a class officer, and was a brother of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Following graduation, Lindsay earned his M.A. at the University of Georgia’s Peabody School of Journalism and his J.D. from the U.Va. School of Law. He practiced law in Charlottesville and was a Trustee of The Miller School. In 1999, he was asked to become the Miller School’s Headmaster. In July 2008, he became Headmaster at Hawai’i Preparatory Academy. Mr. Barnes will be retiring in 2015.

For more information about the Tiger Track for Education, contact Ms. Becca Snyder in the Career Education Office at (434) 223-6105 or rsnyder@hsc.edu