

Gabelli 2013 - Junior Advising Program

Pursuing a Career in Education

There are always a few students every year who realize they have a passion for teaching even though they're in business school. If that's the case, don't worry: you are not behind. If you're thinking about becoming a teacher, I think the most important thing you can do is pursue some teaching experience while you're still an undergrad. Nothing beats classroom experience because that'll let you know if you really want to teach more than any class on the subject. Thus, I'd recommend you finding some sort of afterschool or summer school job, whether through a summer program, a test prep organization, or a proper grade school or high school program. The experience in these smaller settings will give you an absolute leg up on everyone else when you teach your first proper class as a full-time teacher. You can pursue these opportunities the same as you would pursue an internship (please find that particular tip sheet on the GSB Junior Advising website: www.fordham.edu/GSB/Juniors).

If, after getting some experience, you decide to pursue being a teacher, I recommend starting on getting your teaching license as soon as possible. After all, the difference in pay for non-licensed and licensed teachers can be the difference between poverty and a living-wage. You can try being a non-licensed teacher for a year after college at a private school if you want to test the waters, but keep in mind that there's a large supply of folks who want to do that job, so the competition is tough with little recompense. However, I wouldn't recommend going without the license for too long.

The most chosen route to become a licensed teacher is to pursue a graduate education degree. Getting into these programs is just like applying for law school or business school, except the test you'll need to prepare for and take is the GRE, which tests Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning, and Quantitative Reasoning.

So the steps involved for the summer are:

- Go to www.ets.org/gre/ and register to take the GRE at the time and place of your preference. Like the GMAT, you can take the computer-based GRE at a designated testing center once per calendar month (although not more than five times in a year).
- ETS.org/gre also offers free test prep materials to help you study. You may want consider looking into test prep books and courses, if you wish, too.
- Do your research to see which Graduate program is best for the level and subjects you want to teach. US News and World Report offers the standard rankings.
- Start working on your personal statement, resume, and pursuing your recommendations.

Another option is the NYC Teaching Fellows Program: <http://www.nycteachingfellows.org/>. It's highly competitive, but they'll pay for your degree and put you to work at the same time (at a decent wage, comparatively), and, usually, you'll be done with a degree and experience in three years, so it's a good deal. However, keep in mind you'll be working in some of the tougher schools in the city, so a great deal of effort is required on your part. You can go to their website for the application and further information.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to stop by the GSB Dean's Office (Faber 359) or the Career Services Center (McGinley 224).

Good luck!

*If you have any questions, please contact your Junior Class Dean,
Alan Cafferkey – cafferkey@fordham.edu*