

Alternative Education License ONLINE PROGRAM

School of Education

Inspired to learn

The large and/or traditional school environment is becoming less effective for increasing numbers of students. Research shows this is especially true for at-risk, vulnerable, and disengaged students. At the same time, some students are finding success in smaller alternative education programs that attempt to integrate learning and meaningful work. These programs create sustained, family-like support systems of peers and caring adults. They develop an “opportunity structure” by setting rigorous standards and high expectations for students. They pay attention to the quality of staff and display an ongoing commitment to staff development. Most importantly, they focus on developing and transforming the whole person by demonstrating respect for individual intelligence and the ability to contribute to the community.

In Wisconsin, school districts are meeting this challenge and developing alternative education programs to address the needs of their students. The programs range from early intervention for at-risk learners that start the student off on the right track to “last-chance” programs. Last-chance programs may be designed to provide educational alternatives for students whose behavior has significantly interfered with the safety, well being, and/or learning of others. Another type of last-chance alternative education program may serve students whose credit deficiency is so severe that he or she will not graduate.

While the short-term goal of alternative education is to meet the needs of some students, the long-term goal must be to identify successful alternative education strategies and use these strategies as a basis for improving learning opportunities for all children.

Required coursework

AEL (Licensure Only) — 6 credits

Course	Name	Credits
EDU 636	Understanding Alternative and Non-traditional Learners	3
EDU 638	Effective Schools Research: What Works	3
	Final Reflective Paper (Due at completion of program)	0

Total credits 6

The Alternative Education License allows a person who already holds a Wisconsin teaching license to teach in alternative education programs in grades 6–12. Individuals with an initial teaching license who do not wish to complete a master’s degree may seek the Alternative Education License only (WI 952).

WE INSPIRE

MARIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: 1-800-2-MARIAN ext. 8118 | (920) 923-8118

OFFICE OF ADULT AND GRADUATE ADMISSION:

45 S. National Ave. | Fond du Lac, WI 54935 | 1-800-2-MARIAN ext. 7650
(920) 923-7650 | admission@marianuniversity.edu | marianuniversity.edu

Founded 1936 • Sponsored by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes