Paraprofessionals are instructional assistants who provide support for students in a wide variety of educational settings. They are essential members of a collaborative school team who assist with classroom instruction and utilize strategies that promote student success. Paraprofessionals work under the supervision of licensed teachers within general and special education classrooms and may provide instructional support to students with diverse learning needs, including those with exceptionalities. The need for qualified, trained paraprofessionals has expanded due to the inclusion of students with special needs into general education classrooms.

**WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?**

Make an appointment to visit our campus by calling 330.684.8980 or toll-free 1.800.221.8308, ext. 8980. During your visit, talk with one of our admissions counselors, or the program coordinator, about your opportunities and how to get started. You can begin the application process by following these easy steps:

❯❯ Complete an application form on our website at wayne.uakron.edu/admissions (nonrefundable fee required).
❯❯ Submit an official copy of your high school transcripts or GED.
❯❯ Take either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). These tests are not required for students age 21 and older.
❯❯ Submit official transcripts from any other accredited college or university you have attended.

Fill out applications for scholarships, grants, and loans. Applications are available online or in the Student Services office. Request financial aid information early to ensure you receive the financial help you need.

Dr. Shawn DiNarda Watters  
Assistant Professor  
Program Coordinator  
Paraprofessional Education  
330.972.8788  
w94@uakron.edu  
wayne.uakron.edu/academics-majors/education-paraprofessional.dot

“With a Paraprofessional Education degree, I am excited for the opportunity to become a member of a team that will help children reach their potential. The dynamics of the classroom have become very diverse, and I feel I’ve attained the skills and experience necessary to provide the support each child requires.”

― Theresa Rabbitts  
Paraprofessional Student
Wayne College established the educational paraprofessional associate degree for individuals who wish to obtain an education as a highly qualified paraprofessional or instructional assistant. Wayne College is the only college in the Northeast Ohio area to offer the paraprofessional education associate degree. The training program for an educational paraprofessional is rigorous and ensures preparation for serving all students, especially those with exceptional learning needs.

The associate degree program at Wayne College allows students to continue their education through the bachelor’s degree via a seamless transfer into the College of Education’s Intervention Specialist and Early Childhood programs. The associate degree provides immediate employability, making it possible to work in a school setting while pursuing additional education. The curriculum enhances employability by integrating classroom learning with meaningful practicum experiences.

Associate degree candidates will study child development, instructional practices, practices that support learning, historical foundations of education, behavior management techniques, and how to work effectively with a team of educational professionals. Students in this program undergo meaningful opportunities to integrate and apply classroom lessons through observations, service learning projects, and a field experience as an educational paraprofessional similar to student teaching.

MISSION STATEMENT

The University of Akron, Wayne College prepares educational paraprofessionals with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to successfully implement lessons and behavior plans; collect student data; and instruct individuals, and small and large groups of students under the direction of a classroom teacher with a commitment to professionalism.

WHY WAYNE?

The Paraprofessional Education Program at Wayne College is EXCELLENT. The program provided me with all the skills and educational experience necessary to work as an effective paraprofessional educator, communicator, and collaborator with other educators and parents. I love being a paraprofessional and being part of an education team, helping school administrators, and supporting students academically. It’s also nice to know that I will always have the opportunity to continue my education with The University of Akron.”

– Kim Johnson
Paraprofessional Studies Graduate