

A CAREER IN PARAPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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.

SALARY INFORMATION

Your starting salary will depend upon your level of skills and experience, the education system in which you are employed, and geographic area. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated the average salary for a full-time, nine-month position as an educational paraprofessional to be \$24,900 in 2015. Benefit packages are available within school systems.

"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

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
sw94@uakron.edu
wayne.uakron.edu/academics-majors/education-paraprofessional.dot



The University of Akron
Wayne College

wayne.uakron.edu

1901 Smucker Road, Orrville, OH 44667
wayne.uakron.edu

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WHAT IS PARAPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION?

An education paraprofessional performs tasks or specific duties as directed by a licensed teacher and/or related services personnel (occupational, physical, speech language therapists) to support student learning.

- » Work with educators as a team member;
- » Build and maintain effective communication with teachers, school administrators, and related-services personnel;
- » Maintain student-centered, supportive environments;
- » Organize learning opportunities for students;
- » Implement lessons initiated by the teacher or related-services personnel;
- » Assess or document student needs and progress;
- » Collect student data for behavior plans and academic progress;
- » Follow school guidelines and procedures; and know and practice good professional ethics.

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL TASKS

1. Facilitation of individual and small group reinforcement of instruction
2. Support the facilitation of reading workshops, literature circle sessions, and story-time activities
3. Student assistance within educational/inclusive settings including instructional support, monitoring, and recording of behavior
4. Assistance with cooperative learning activities, computer work, and learning centers
5. Presentation of routine daily class opening activity such as morning meeting time
6. Recess, library, lunchroom, indoor recess supervision
7. Clerical tasks (taking attendance, collecting fees, book orders, materials preparation, bulletin boards, etc.)
8. Personal care assistance to students

WHY WAYNE?

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.



"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