And change the world.

The College of Education and Social Services prepares outstanding professionals in education, social work, and human services. We are passionate and deeply committed to student engagement and success within a culture of academic excellence, innovation, experiential learning, and social justice.

Through ongoing faculty-student mentoring and scholarship, diverse field experiences and meaningful service-learning opportunities, students are uniquely positioned to make a profound impact on the world by improving lives, strengthening communities, and effecting societal change.

JOIN US.
Year of experience— before you graduate.

Teaching first graders at Burlington’s Edmunds Elementary, part of her senior practicum, was Taylor Farnsworth’s fourth field experience of her college years. Getting into real classrooms early and often is a defining characteristic of the UVM education curriculum.

Farnsworth enrolled at the university with a strong sense that a helping profession was the right fit for her. Working with a diverse range of children in a variety of local schools has deepened that commitment, teaching skills, and sense of self.

“Having had this exposure, I feel as though I have become more accepting and thoughtful of each person as a whole, rather than what I just see on the outside,” she says. “Hanging out with elementary school students all day —where they look up to you and depend on you — boosts my confidence and makes me feel ready for the next step after graduation.”

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

With many seminar-style classes of fewer than 25 students, undergrads in the college build strong relationships with faculty and their fellow students. UVM’s internationally acclaimed campus lab school is an incredible resource for student fieldwork in early childhood education.

From local social service agencies to student clubs, undergrads find may opportunities for experiences that are strong complements to their studies.

Dual Certification and Dual Degree opportunities give our teacher education graduates an edge in the job market.

Social work courses are structured around interaction, actively engaging through case studies, simulated exercises, role-plays, presentations, and more.

Working with UVM faculty on research projects enriches the learning experience and adds another dimension to our graduates’ resumes.

College-specific study abroad programs include New Zealand, Finland, Portugal, Thailand and more. Many more are offered through UVM’s Office of International Education.
Can students Electric Slide their way toward a better understanding of X- and Y-axes? Yes, says Carmen Petrick Smith, who’s researching an observation she made back in her days of teaching high school: that students learn geometric principles more easily when physical movements are in the lesson plan. Now a UVM assistant professor of mathematics education, she and her team — which includes both graduate and undergraduate students — have published research showing significant gains in elementary kids’ understanding of angles when they used their bodies to interact with a Kinect for Windows mathematics program.

“Maybe they don’t know the words quite yet,” she says, “but they have a way to express it using their bodies that they didn’t have before when they were sitting in a row of desks looking up at the teacher and searching for an answer.” It’s work that could point the way toward more effective — and active — math classrooms everywhere.
Societal change starts here.

**VOICES OF NEW AMERICANS**

Diverse refugee communities—6,000 people and growing—are changing the face of Vermont. Susan Comerford, professor of social work, has deep ties within this population of new Americans, a concern that traces to her years of experience working on the ground in refugee camps and as an advocate in the halls of power. She shares that expertise in her service-learning course, “Working with Refugees,” giving students direct contact with the global social issue of our times. “If you leave this class with only an intellectual understanding, then I have not done my job,” she tells students early in the semester. “You need to understand this on a personal level.”

Medina Serdarevic ’18 (left) is pictured working in an after-school program at Burlington’s King Street Center, part of her fieldwork for the course.

Will Halby ’94 earned his degree in elementary and special education. Teaming with his brother Pete ’99, the brothers founded Zeno Mountain Farm, a creative community erasing boundaries between the “abled” and “disabled.”
THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES includes the departments of Education, Social Work, and Leadership and Developmental Sciences. Collectively, the college offers many undergraduate majors, minors and graduate programs.

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS, MINORS

American Sign Language  Education for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity  Music Education
Art Education  Elementary Education  Physical Education
Coaching  Human Development and Family Studies  Secondary Education
Early Childhood Education  Middle Level Education  Special Education
Special Education

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Counseling, M.S.  Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, M.Ed.
Curriculum and Instruction, M.Ed.  Interdisciplinary Studies, M.Ed.
Educational Leadership, M.Ed.  Interdisciplinary Study of Disabilities
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Ph.D.  Special Education, M.Ed.

ACCELERATED MASTERS

Counseling, M.S.  Middle Level Education M.A.T.
Curriculum and Instruction, M.Ed.  Secondary Education M.A.T.
Educational Leadership, M.Ed.  Special Education, M.Ed.
Interdisciplinary Studies, M.Ed.
Interdisciplinary Study of Disabilities
Social Work, M.S.W.

At UVM, you’ll learn from some of the top teachers—and researchers—in the world, enjoying all the perks of the #1 college town in America.

The deeply experiential curriculum of the College of Education and Social Services prepares our students for a variety of career pathways.

From this incredible launching pad, you’ll be prepared to go anywhere and to do anything, like these alumni before you:

- Ryan Fletcher, principal of Oakland, California’s Piedmont Middle School, ranked the #1 public middle school in the country in 2015
- Leo Lambert, president of Elon University during a period of great transformation for the school
- Cyma Zarghami, president of Nickelodeon Network
- Kathryn Maitland, serving in the Peace Corps, currently working in the Caribbean

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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ALUMNI

Michele Forman, winner of the 2001 National Teacher of the Year Award for her work at Middlebury Union High School
Kate McCann, 2017 Vermont Teacher of the Year Award
Jackie Reno, 2016 Vermont Early Educator of the Year Award

94% of the Class of 2017 was employed or continuing their education within six months of graduating.

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