Cameron Brown is psyched! He’s wanted to be a teacher for a long time. Now, he’s getting the knowledge and experience he’ll need to excel in that profession. And every day, he feels more and more inspired. “I’m in class all day three days a week, and in public schools the other two days. My professors are awesome and the classes I’m taking are fantastic. I really look forward to them.”

Cameron says that he’s always had amazing teachers. Couple that with his enduring love of athletics and it’s no surprise that he chose physical education as his major.

When it comes to sports, whether he’s running (he competes year-round), playing intramurals (he’s on several teams) or sailing (he’s on the College’s club team) – Cameron is all in. He’s also committed to helping others. For example, he is co-organizing the College’s participation in Relay for Life (a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society), and he helps out regularly with Chucktown Squash, a sports program for elementary and middle school students. As involved as he is in all this, Cameron is most passionate about becoming a good teacher.

“When I come out of class, I’m pumped,” he says. “Teaching is something I know I do well, and I love interacting with kids. In one class I’m taking, a group of us has designed a curriculum for kindergartners and we’re in the middle of implementing our plan. Afterward, we’ll assess how well that program taught the standards that these kids are required to learn.”

Like all physical education majors, Cameron had to take physiology, anatomy and kinesiology (the study of human movement). “Those courses form an important basis for the other things we study, but they do tend to make this one of the more challenging majors at the College. Fortunately, we’re well supported by the faculty. I feel like they’re all on my team and doing the best they can to help me become a better teacher.”

During his final semester, Cameron will do his clinical practice, which means he will essentially be a full-time teacher. “That’s still a ways down the road, but I’m excited about it. I’ll be designing my own curriculum and teaching a class of 20-plus kids. It might be a little intimidating, but I know I’ll have a strong background and support from the College.”

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Our physical education teacher education (PETE) majors come to understand the scientific and philosophical bases of physical education and sport. They learn to analyze movement, and they study the teaching learning process. The PETE program prepares students to teach physical education in grades pre-K through 12, or teach in continuing- or community-education programs as well as alternative school settings. It is accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education in conjunction with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Facts
• Students complete more than 150 hours in pre-K through 12 public schools in diverse environments (urban, suburban, rural and adapted) prior to their student teaching.
• PETE teaching/research lab provides students with the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge research using the latest technology under the direction of PETE faculty.
• Nationally accredited program

Opportunities
• Graduates are certified for pre-K through 12.
• Graduates can coach at the middle school, high school and college levels.
• With a master’s degree, they can teach at the college level.