



Kenny Brinkman »

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

AT FIRST, KENNY BRINKMAN DIDN'T CONSIDER becoming a teacher. He thought he'd be working as a field scientist. But during a stint volunteering with youngsters in a marine science program, he fell in love with teaching and everything changed. That's when he decided to get a degree to teach high school science.

"It's so apparent when a student shares your joy of learning," Kenny explains. "You can almost see the gears turning in their head as they begin to understand how an

ecosystem works. And when I see that, it really gets me excited. That's why I want to teach."

Kenny is preparing himself to be an exceptional educator. Several courses he's taken have been pivotal in that process. "Classroom Management was key," he says, "as was Human Growth and Development. They're both so practical because the professors talk with you about being in a classroom having an awful day with 20 kids climbing the walls and how to deal with that. I don't think there's a professor in the department who hasn't had at least three years' experience teaching in a primary, middle or secondary school classroom, so their courses really prepare you for what you'll face in the classroom."

Secondary education was Kenny's choice of major because of the impact that he knows he'll have on young learners. "I'll be among the last set of educators in the lives of these young students. I think it will be really rewarding to see my students work hard and prepare themselves for the future. When you consider how turbulent this world is, it's reassuring to know that I'm doing my best to send young men and women out there well prepared for what they'll face. And, I get to do that in my own style because the Department of Teacher Education here is very big on having its majors develop their own style as an educator. That's really important." 📍



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### DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION

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The secondary education program develops exceptional teachers who benefit from clinical and field experiences in diverse settings that represent a variety of socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Our students are in high demand and commonly receive multiple offers before graduation. In addition, more than ninety percent of these majors are still in the classroom 10 years later.

» A secondary education cognate major is available to students who major in biology, chemistry, English, history, mathematics, physics, political science and sociology.

» The major's Teaching Fellows program features numerous professional development opportunities.