The undergraduate program includes a curriculum designed for professional preparation as a certified teacher of physical education, PK-12. Core courses for all physical education students include science-based courses, teaching methods, health and content-specific courses. Students engage in two formal field-based experiences: (1) a 45-hour practicum consisting of on-site observational experiences in one or more public school settings; and (2) a clinical experience (student teaching) in elementary and secondary schools during the final semester.

### Major Responsibilities of the Job
Most of the time you will be in charge of teaching health and/or PE classes during the day. If you are at a secondary school (grades 6-12) you will probably teach 5-6 classes and they would meet for an hour to an hour and a half. If you are at an elementary school (grades K-5) you will probably have 8-10 half hour classes with very few breaks (e.g., planning periods). Many teachers have to teach at more than one school.

At the secondary school you may have to teach a Health class or two.

Coaching is another duty you may choose to do especially early on in a career. In fact, you may choose to coach several sports.

Other duties that you may have to partake in (many teachers do not get paid for these) during the day are duties such as after school monitoring of students, lunch, hall, and bus duties. And, of course you will need to attend faculty and parent-teacher conference meetings throughout the year. Lastly, many physical education teachers are required to do a year-end Field Day or a physical education show of some kind.

From PE Central. To learn more about becoming a physical education teacher, examine lesson plans and check out best practices visit [http://www.pecentral.org/professional/becomingapeteacher.html](http://www.pecentral.org/professional/becomingapeteacher.html)

### Similar Occupations
- Coach
- Athletic Director
- Fitness Instructor
- Professional Official or Umpire
- Outdoor Adventure Leader
- Sports Camp Counselor or Coordinator
- Sporting Goods Store Manager/Owner
- College Student Affairs Professional
- Community Service Administrator

### National Job Outlook and Wages
- Median Wages (2012) $53,430 annual
- Employment (2010) 642,000 employees
- Projected growth (2010-2020)... Average (10% to 19%)
- Projected job openings........... 249,300 (2010-2020)
- Top Industries (2010) Educational Services


### Oklahoma Job Outlook and Wages
- Median Wages (2012) $42,100 annual
- Employment (2010) 7,082 employees
- Projected growth (2010-2020)... Faster than average (+24%)
- Projected job openings........... 330 (2010-2020)

Source: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Economic Research & Analysis Division

### State Minimum Teacher Salary
- **$31,600** - no experience with bachelor’s degree
- **$32,800** - no experience with master’s degree

**2012-2013 school year** - teachers in the public schools of Oklahoma shall receive in salary and/or fringe benefits not less than the amount specified in the schedule located online at [http://www.ok.gov/sde/state-minimum-teacher-salary-schedule](http://www.ok.gov/sde/state-minimum-teacher-salary-schedule). When determining minimum salary, “fringe benefits” shall mean only the employee’s share of retirement, if paid by the district.
Oklahoma will need Physical Education instructors...

According to a ranking by CalorieLab (http://calorielab.com), based on statistics from the CDC’s BRFSS database, Oklahoma is the 6th fattest state with 67.3% of the state being either overweight or obese.

While the Oklahoma Department of Health adopts many of the Healthy People 2010 objectives (http://www.healthypeople.gov) and the Oklahoma Legislature passes more bills such as SB312 which "requires public elementary schools to provide physical education and health instruction for students in full day kindergarten and grades one through five", the need for instructors is expected to grow.

To learn more about the Oklahoma Board of Health and the State of the States Health Report go to http://www.ok.gov/health/Organization/Board_of_Health/index.html

Learn More (Interesting sites related to teaching Physical Education)

http://www.humankinetics.com/physicaleducation
http://www.pe4life.org
http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/physicalactivity/facts.htm
http://www.everydaychoices.org/082008/PE%20Fact%20Sheet%20AHA%20ACS%20ADA%205.27.08%20[Final].pdf

Visit Career Services for assistance with resume and cover letter development, job and internship searches, career research help, and advice on how to transition from school to work. Call 405-744-6350 or email careersuccess@okstate.edu