

A Career For You - - TEACHING HOMEMAKING

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Doing some heavy thinking about a career? What to do after high school days are over? How about home economics?

The teaching of homemaking today is a good career and while you are getting professional training, you can also obtain knowledge and experience that will help you later to become an efficient, understanding and happy homemaker, wife and mother.

Qualifications

The teaching of homemaking requires enjoyment of the activities and skills involved in home economics and in teaching: a liking for work with people, a sympathetic attitude and a readiness to help others; a sense of humor; a likeable personality, and good health; resourcefulness and adaptability in meeting new situations; willingness to work hard; and interest in volunteer service to the school and the community.

The educational qualifications include a bachelor's degree in home economics education from an accredited four-year college or university.

Activities

The subjects you will teach in home economics include: selection and construction of clothing, nutrition for the family, selection and preparation of food for the family; personal, family, and group relationships; child care and development; management of time and money; housing and home furnishings; selection and use of household equipment; family health; home care of the sick; first aid; and safety in the home.

As a teacher of homemaking, working with boys and girls, you will create opportunities for young people to practice the skills of homemaking and family living. You will help them learn to share their work and play. You will guide them in working out solutions to personal and family life problems. You will encourage them in their big job of growing up; it is an exciting and challenging experience. You will work with other teachers and school officials in planning school projects and social functions. You will maintain an attractive and homelike atmosphere in the homemaking department and you may plan for redecorating, remodeling, or other improvements.



A student teacher (left) helping a student evaluate a home project which is to be submitted as one of the requirements for a degree in the Future Homemakers of America.

Opportunities

The opportunities for positions in teaching homemaking are very good and beginning salaries are high. Positions are available in communities of all sizes and in all sections of the country. There are now approximately 22,000 home economics teachers employed in 18,750 public secondary schools in the United States. This is the largest group in any wage-

earning home economics field. The demand for these qualified homemaking teachers is greater than the supply—an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 new teachers are needed each year. The placement situation is especially good in Arizona where the number of multiple-teacher departments has doubled in the past ten years.

There are possibilities for advancement which can come rather quickly in home economics teaching. Very often you can advance by improving or enlarging the homemaking program in the school where you are; or you may choose the school system of a larger community with a corresponding increase in salary. Later you may wish to consider specialized graduate study to equip yourself for an administrative or supervisory position, or a place on a college faculty, including teacher training to help others become successful teachers of homemaking.

There are many satisfactions in teaching homemaking. You will see many evidences of growth and development of students; a source of great satisfaction and one of the matchless rewards of teaching. You will gain personal satisfaction from helping people get new ideas and learn new ways of working. You will feel needed when others turn to you for counseling and advice. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are developing your own skill in working with people, are gaining in understanding of others, and are proving yourself capable of the work required for successful teaching.

A student teacher (right) guiding the instruction of a high school student in a clothing project. The supervising teacher is observing.

