Are you interested in the field of Teaching?
If you are interested in becoming a Teacher (Kindergarten through 12th grade), then you will need to have some of the following interests and strengths:

- Wish to help others
- Enjoy sharing your knowledge with others
- Possess knowledge of a specific subject matter for grades 6-12
- Ability to explain difficult topics in an easy-to-learn manner
- Interested in working with children and/or teenagers
- Patience

To teach K-12 in a public school setting in the United States, a Teaching Certificate is required. Each state issues their own certificate and many states have reciprocity with other states. However, some private and religious schools do not require a teaching certificate and if you wish to teach outside of the U.S., those requirements will vary. Depending on the school, they may accept a Bachelor’s degree in a subject and hire you with (or without) the intention of your working toward certification.

Getting a Teacher Certification
In the U.S. there are different age-level certifications:
- Early Education
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Additional certifications: reading specialist, special education, library specialist, counselor

In order to teach, you will need to fulfill certification and licensing requirements. These vary by state, but generally include:

- Obtain a Bachelor’s degree at CMU
- Complete a teacher preparation program, which includes either a Master’s (Master of Arts in Teaching-MAT) or Post-Baccalaureate (professional-year PY) university program
- Complete a semester of student teaching (part of the MAT or PY program)
- Complete all requirements for a state or national certification

Additional requirements before you can teach:
Most schools require you to pass background checks and tests, such as:

- Act 33/34
- Criminal Record
- Fingerprinting
- PRAXIS Tests (this varies by state and in Pennsylvania there are also Pre-Service Academic Performance Tests)

Resources to help you with this journey:
1. CMU Resources
   a. The School of Music offers a Teacher Certification program for undergraduates:
      https://www.cmu.edu/cfa/music/programs/certificate-programs/music-education-certification.html
2. Outside of CMU
   a. [https://www.teach.org/](https://www.teach.org/)
   b. The Occupational Outlook Handbook has general information on teaching such as average salaries, work environment, how fast this occupation is growing
      i. [Information about elementary school teachers](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-teaching-and-counseling/elementary-school-teachers.htm)
      ii. [Information about high school teachers](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-teaching-and-counseling/high-school-teachers.htm)

**Alternative paths to get into the field of teaching:**
- [Teach for America](https://teachforamerica.org/)
- Overseas
  o [https://www.ciee.org/teach/](https://www.ciee.org/teach/)
  o [http://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad](http://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad)
  o [http://www.worldteach.org](http://www.worldteach.org)
- [Alternative Certification Programs](https://www2.ed.gov/programs/alternativecert.html)
- [Urban Teachers](https://www.urban.org/)
- [Funding to help with your loans](https://www.finaid.org/loans)

**Job postings for teachers:**
1. Some states have a central application website for all school districts in that state such as in Pennsylvania and Iowa and New York.
2. [www.southernteachers.com](http://www.southernteachers.com)

**Your resume for the field of teaching:**
Create your resume with all of your accomplishments, experiences and skills.

Be sure to include the following, if applicable:
- **Certifications** – List all of your certifications with dates and details

**Teaching Experience** – List your experience in teaching and be sure to include classroom management skills and teaching methods. Mention any specific lessons or modules that you are especially proud of teaching.

**Relevant Experience** – Discuss your experience with a specific subject matter

**Professional Memberships, Conferences, Presentations** – List anything related to your teaching or your subject matter specialty