

Elementary Education, MA, MEd, MS

Specialization(s): Early Childhood Education; English as a Second Language (MEd only); Gifted and Talented Education; Mathematics and Science Education; Reading, Writing, and Language Arts; Social Studies Education

Department: School of Teacher Education and Leadership

College: Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services

Overview

About This Degree

The graduate program in elementary education is designed for people who desire to improve their competencies as educators. The curriculum consists of core principles in teacher education, such as theories of teaching and learning, classroom management, diversity in education, and more.

USU's elementary education program ranked in the top 10 among teacher education programs for faculty scholarly productivity in 2007's *Academic Analytics*. The Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services ranks in the top 2% of all graduate colleges of education nationwide, and the college is also ranked third in the nation in total research dollars received, according to "America's Best Graduate Schools," *U.S. News & World Report*.

While the **MS** and the **MA** (which includes a language requirement) are traditional master's degrees, ideal for students interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, the **MEd** is designed for students who desire to work in the field of education. This includes school personnel as well as individuals who are involved in education-related activities in industry and other areas.

Distance Education

The MEd in elementary education is available through USU's [Regional Campuses](#).

Career Options

Graduates generally continue on in their teaching careers in schools across Utah and the nation. In addition, graduates have also taken leadership positions in private and public K-12 organizations.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must have a standard elementary teaching certificate and have completed at least one year of successful elementary education teaching.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on in the GRE or MAT
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

Admissions Deadlines

The department has the following deadlines:

- Fall semester – June 15
- Spring semester – October 15

- Summer semester – March 15

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students receive the **MS** or **MA** by pursuing the following plan option:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.

Students can receive the **MEd** by pursuing one of two options:

- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.
- A second option, **Plan C**, does not involve a thesis or a defense meeting and is comprised of coursework only.

Financial Assistance

Graduate [assistantships](#) (teaching or research) for full-time graduate students are available. For the best chance to be awarded an assistantship, applicants should have their applications submitted by the end of February.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), [tuition awards](#), and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Arts**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Education**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

MEd Qualifying Exams:

All students pursuing the MEd must participate in a final exam.

- **MEd Plan B:** Students are required to pass an oral exam, which is taken at the end of the program. Typically, half of the exam is devoted to a presentation/discussion of the student's master's project or portfolio, and the other half focuses on general information related to the field of elementary education. Guidelines for preparing for this part of the exam are presented to each student upon acceptance into the program so the student may work toward acquiring this knowledge while proceeding through the program. If a student fails the oral exam, he or she may retake the exam once.
- **MEd Plan C:** Students are required to pass a culminating experience, which is developed by the student's advisor to meet the needs of the student. The culminating experience will be one of the following: 1) culminating interview with the advisor; 2) oral comprehensive examination under the supervision of the advisor; 3) written comprehensive examination under the supervision of the advisor; or 4) other culminating experience developed by the student and advisor and approved by the department head.

Contact

Advisor(s)

Michael Freeman

Associate Dean

Office: EDUC 114

Phone: (435) 797-1474

Email: michael.freeman@usu.edu

Krista Terrell

Staff Assistant

Office: EDUC 385

Phone: (435) 797-1473

Email: krista.terrell@usu.edu

Faculty

James Barta, PhD, University of Oregon
Associate Dept. Head, Regional Campus and Distance Education
Area: Early childhood, mathematics
Office: USU Salt Lake education center
Phone: (801) 646-5570
Email: jim.barta@usu.edu

Amy Bingham Brown, EdD, Florida Atlantic University
Assistant Professor
Area: Elementary mathematics
Office: USU Tooele campus
Phone: (813) 765-1842
Email: amy.bingham@usu.edu

Deborah Byrnes, PhD, Arizona State University
Professor
Area: Social studies education
Office: EDUC 399
Phone: (435) 797-0372
Email: deborah.byrnes@usu.edu

Steven Camicia, PhD, University of Washington
Assistant Professor
Area: Social studies education
Office: EDUC 390
Phone: (435) 797-0390
Email: steven.camicia@usu.edu

Todd Campbell, PhD, University of Iowa
Associate Professor, Graduate Program Coordinator
Area: Science education
Office: EDUC 331
Phone: (435) 797-7038
Email: todd.campbell@usu.edu

Kay Camperell, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Associate Professor
Area: Literacy
Office: EDUC 337
Phone: (435) 797-2501
Email: kay.camperell@usu.edu

Sarah Clark, PhD, Utah State University
Assistant Professor
Area: Literacy
Office: EDUC 396
Phone: (435) 797-0370
Email: sarah.clark@usu.edu

Barbara DeBoer, PhD, Utah State University
Clinical Assistant Professor
Area: Early childhood education
Office: EDUC 397

Phone: (435) 797-0372
Email: barbara.deboer@usu.edu

Martha Dever, EdD, University of Northern Colorado
Professor, Associate Dean
Area: Early childhood education
Office: EDUC 385
Phone: (435) 797-2225
Email: martha.dever@usu.edu

James Dorward, PhD, University of Oregon
Professor/Associate Dean for Research, Math Education
Area: Mathematics
Office: EDUC 453
Phone: (435) 797-1471
Email: jim.dorward@usu.edu

Parker Fawson, EdD, Brigham Young University
Professor
Area: Literacy
Office: EBL5 235
Phone: (435) 797-0866
Email: parker.fawson@usu.edu

Laura Foley, EdD, Utah State University
Assistant Professor
Area: Literacy
Office: USU Uintah Basin campus
Phone: (435) 722-1765
Email: laura.foley@usu.edu

Barry Franklin, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Professor
Area: Curriculum theory
Office: EDUC 340
Phone: (435) 797-1836
Email: barry.franklin@usu.edu

Michael Freeman, PhD, University of Wyoming
Associate Dean
Area: Educational leadership
Office: EDUC 114
Phone: (435) 797-1474
Email: michael.freeman@usu.edu

Scott Hunsaker, PhD, University of Virginia
Associate Professor
Area: Gifted and talented, foundations
Office: EDUC 386
Phone: (435) 797-0386
Email: scott.hunsaker@usu.edu

Francine Johnson, PhD, Stanford University
Associate Dean, Teacher Education
Area: Gifted and talented, supervision
Office: EDUC 101
Phone: (435) 797-2714

Email: francine.johnson@usu.edu

Cindy Jones, PhD, Utah State University
Assistant Professor
Area: Literacy
Office: EBLs 236
Phone: (435) 797-7027
Email: cindy.jones@usu.edu

Sherry Marx, PhD, University of Texas
Assistant Professor
Area: ESL, multicultural issues, qualitative methods
Office: EDUC 341
Phone: (435) 797-2227
Email: sherry.marx@usu.edu

Patricia Moyer-Packenham, PhD, University of North Carolina
Professor
Area: Mathematics
Office: EDUC 394
Phone: (435) 797-0394
Email: patricia.moyer-packenham@usu.edu

Patricio Ortiz, PhD, University of Texas
Assistant Professor
Area: ESL, multicultural education
Office: EDUC 339
Phone: (435) 797-3946
Email: patricio.ortiz@usu.edu

Sylvia Read, PhD, Utah State University
Associate Professor and Associate Department Head
Area: Language arts
Office: EDUC 382
Phone: (435) 797-0382
Email: sylvia.read@usu.edu

Ray Reutzell, PhD, University of Wyoming
Emma Eccles Jones Endowed Chair and Distinguished Professor
Area: Early childhood literacy
Office: EBLs 139 A
Phone: (435) 797-8631
Email: ray.reutzell@usu.edu

Cintha Saavedra, PhD, Texas A&M University
Assistant Professor
Area: Early childhood education, ESL
Office: EDUC 392
Phone: (435) 797-0392
Email: cintha.saavedra@usu.edu

Susan Turner, PhD, Brigham Young University
Assistant Professor
Area: Leadership
Office: EDUC 334
Phone: (435) 797-3947
Email: susan.turner@usu.edu

Martha Whitaker, PhD, University of Utah
Associate Professor
Area: Foundations, supervision
Office: EDUC 384
Phone: (435) 797-0384
Email: martha.whitaker@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Under the broad discipline of education, there are many professional organizations specific to different areas of interest and expertise. Students are encouraged to become members of organizations that are relevant to their area of study.

Labs, Centers, Research

Center for Persons with Disabilities: The CPD is a nationally recognized research center that joins the expertise of researchers and faculty with community partners to address the most difficult challenges facing persons with disabilities and their families. Research addresses issues that cross fields ranging from biomedicine to education. In clinical experiences, learners join teams of professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to deliver services and supports.

Center for the School of the Future: The CSF is a research center dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of education by identifying effective educational practices and supporting their dissemination and adoption in local circumstances.

Edith Bowen Laboratory School: EBLS is one of Utah's charter schools, offering services to more than 300 students grades K-5. The school, in cooperation with Utah State University, trains more than 200 pre-service teachers preparing to become professional educators, as well as supporting several other departments/colleges on campus, including special education, physical education, music, psychology, and business. Because the school is funded through state funds and donations, no tuition is charged to students.

Emma Eccles Jones Center for Early Childhood Education: This center provides educational experiences and resources for teachers and parents that reflect the development of children from birth through age eight.