

# 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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)

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## 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.