

Elementary Education

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Degrees offered: Bachelor of Science (BS), Bachelor of Arts (BA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Arts (MA), and Master of Education (MEd) in Elementary Education; BS and BA in Early Childhood Education; the Elementary Education Department participates in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Education, including Doctor of Education (EdD) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with Curriculum and Instruction Specialization

Graduate specializations: MA, MS, MEd—Early Childhood Education; Educational Leadership; ESL Education; Gifted and Talented Education; Math and Science Education; Middle Education; Reading, Writing, and Language Arts; and Social Studies Education

Undergraduate Programs

Objectives

The purposes of the Department of Elementary Education are:

1. To develop professional educators;
2. To advance knowledge in the field of education.

These purposes are realized through teaching, scholarly activities, and service. The department provides leadership in the preparation of teachers, supervisors, curriculum specialists, and other professional personnel for careers in elementary education, early childhood education, and middle education.

The Department of Elementary Education at Utah State University offers three programs leading to licensure as a teacher: (1) *Elementary Education*: Offers licensure to teach in grades one through eight in the public schools; (2) *Early Childhood Education*: Offers licensure to teach prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades one through three in the elementary school; and (3) *Middle Education*: Offers an endorsement to teach in grades five through eight.

Requirements

Provisional Admission Process and Requirements. Since more students major in Elementary Education at USU than in any other major, competition for admission into the program is very keen. Due to increased demands for admission coupled with limited resources, a ceiling of 175 students has been placed on admissions each year. Thus, admission to USU does not necessarily guarantee admission into the Elementary Education program.

Provisional admission to the Elementary and Early Childhood Teacher Education Program is determined by (1) the student's GPA in a set of core courses, (2) ACT scores and Writing Diagnostic Test or PPST test results, (3) the number of credits a student has taken, (4) successful completion of a group assessment interview, and (5) a speech and hearing test. (Additional factors to be weighted may be gender and/or minority status consistent with applicable law.) Applications are accepted each semester. Because there are typically more applicants than there is space available, the number accepted is limited. **Students who are not accepted may reapply.** Provisional admission requires formal action by the Office of the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, as well as by the student's department.

Admission to the Teacher Education Program is a prerequisite for enrollment in the major, starting with Level II. A student desiring admission to the Teacher Education Program should file an application in the Elementary Education Office, located in room 373 of the Emma Eccles Jones Education Building.

Elementary Education SODIA Program. The acronym SODIA represents the elementary teacher education program. The name is derived from the initial letter of descriptive words (Self, Others, Discipline, Implementation, and Application) which represent emphasis placed at each level of the program.

The elementary education SODIA program is performance-based and field-centered. It utilizes public schools as partners in each phase of the teacher education program. SODIA is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental program utilizing staff members from the Departments of Psychology; Special Education and Rehabilitation; Family, Consumer, and Human Development; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Music; Art; Theatre Arts; and Instructional Technology who work in conjunction with the Department of Elementary Education. These University faculty members work with teachers and principals of cooperating public schools and the Edith Bowen Laboratory School on the USU campus in an integrated program.

Level I, Self, is represented by the "S" in the acronym SODIA. This is the first-level course (ELED 1000) introducing the field of education and emphasizing the student's self-assessment in relation to ability and desire to teach. A minimum of 15 hours are spent observing in an elementary or middle school classroom, completing volunteer service in other community settings, and viewing a variety of selected professional videos. In addition, a human growth and development course is required. The two courses in Level I are prerequisites to applying to the Teacher Education Program.

Level II, Others, is represented by the "O" in the acronym SODIA. This stands for the many "others" who make up the education community. In this bloc, each student receives 15 credits

and is assigned as a teacher assistant in one of the public schools. The remainder of the time is spent in seminars and classwork offered on the USU campus. The classwork is interdisciplinary and interrelated, including courses in elementary education, psychology, special education, and technology. Entrance to Level II requires prior admission to the Teacher Education Program.

Level III, Disciplines, is represented by the “D” in the acronym SODIA. Students in this bloc complete 15 credits of methods coursework and practica at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School or public schools. The “methods” courses in reading, social studies, language arts, mathematics, and science are included in this bloc. A preliminary course in reading is required as a transition from Level II to Level III.

Level IV, Implementation, is represented by the “T” in the acronym SODIA. This is the student teaching or internship phase of the program. Student teaching constitutes full days of actual teaching experience for the entire semester. Internships are for the entire academic year.

Level V, Application, is represented by the “A” in the acronym SODIA. At this level, graduates of the program make a transition into the profession of teaching.

National INTASC Standards also receive major emphasis through SODIA’s levels of progression. These standards are: Content Pedagogy, Student Development, Diverse Learners, Critical Thinking, Motivation and Management, Communication, Planning, Assessment, Professional Development, and School/Community Development. A student performance portfolio process (based around the INTASC Standards) is also included.

Continuing Status Requirements. A minimum GPA of 2.75 is required to remain in good standing and to graduate from the program.

All students majoring in elementary education must be registered in the College of Education and Human Services. An advisor will be assigned from the Department of Elementary Education. Programs of professional education courses, as well as teaching support courses and an area of emphasis, have been developed by the Department of Elementary Education and approved by the Council on Teacher Education and the Utah State Office of Education. For a complete description of the program and requirements for graduation and licensure, students should obtain a copy of the *Department of Elementary Education, Student Program Planning Guidebook*, available from the Department of Elementary Education. This information is also available on the Elementary Education Department website: <http://www.coe.usu.edu/eled/>.

Each student completes a professional semester of student teaching or a year of internship. An application for student teaching/internship must be made at least one semester in advance, and credentials are reevaluated at that time. Not all student teachers/interns can be accommodated by the schools located within Cache Valley. Students should be financially prepared to spend that time off campus in the event such an arrangement is necessary. Students must be responsible for their own transportation.

Students who carefully select their elective courses may also qualify for a special endorsement to the basic professional teaching license. All students complete an area of emphasis in a subject matter field, in addition to the teaching support courses. Dual licensure programs exist in deaf education, early childhood education, special education, and middle education. Information concerning special endorsements and additional areas of specialization may be obtained from the Department of Elementary Education.

Students who have teaching licenses in areas other than elementary education may obtain the elementary license by meeting the same or equivalent requirements for licensure expected of an elementary education major. Those desiring to acquire a dual license should work with an advisor from the Department of Elementary Education.

All courses listed as major subject courses must be taken on an *A-B-C-D-F* basis and the grade point average for these courses must be 2.75 or better. Major subject courses passed with less than a *C* grade must be repeated.

Endorsements

The USU Elementary Education Department and Secondary Education Department jointly offer a K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement, as well as a Middle-Level Endorsement. Graduate endorsements are also available in Early Childhood Education, ESL, Reading, Gifted and Talented, and Middle-Level Education.

Additional Information

For more information concerning requirements for University graduation and for basic professional teaching licensure in elementary education, early childhood education, and middle education, see major requirement sheets available from the Elementary Education Department Advisement Center, Emma Eccles Jones Education Building, Room 373.

Financial Support

The following scholarships are available to junior and senior students: Ballam, Blair, Bowen, DeHart, Frye, Hales, Jackson, Kurzhals, McEvoy, Stewart, Taylor, Vest, and Young. To be eligible, students must have completed Level II of the Elementary Education Program and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Applications are available from the Elementary Education Department and are due by February 1.

Graduate Programs

Admission Requirements

Students applying for admission to master’s programs must have GRE scores at or above the 40th percentile. This same percentile is the minimum required on the MAT. For the doctorate degree, GRE scores at or above the 40th percentile are also required on the verbal and quantitative tests. Admission committees also consider experience, undergraduate record, curricula completed, and formal recommendations. One year of successful elementary school teaching experience is required for the master’s program. Two years of teaching experience or the equivalent is required for admission to the doctoral program. Students with deficient oral or written English skills will be required to complete additional coursework to improve their skills.

Admission to graduate programs is contingent upon (1) completion of an application to graduate school and (2) recommendation by the department screening committee for the master’s program or the management admissions committee for the doctoral program. In addition to the requirements of the School of Graduate Studies (see pages 90-91), letters of recommendation must be received from three professionals in education.

Degree Programs—On Campus

Three avenues exist for on-campus students wishing to pursue a master's degree in the Department of Elementary Education at Utah State University. They are as follows:

Master of Arts/Master of Science—Plan A. Students planning to pursue a future doctoral degree or wishing to follow a traditional master's degree should complete a Master of Arts or Master of Science (Plan A) degree. This is a 36-credit program, including 6 credits for the thesis. EDUC 6570 is required as a research course (rather than EDUC 6550). A copy of the Program of Study form listing other required core and professional option courses is available from the department office. A committee chair and two committee members will work with students pursuing the Plan A master's degree. Plan A students should submit an Appointment for Examination form to their major professor, committee, and the Graduate School at least five working days before the final examination is to be held.

Requirements for the Master of Arts degree include two years of an acceptable foreign language or the equivalent, as determined by testing arranged by the supervisory committee and approved by the department and the graduate dean. One year each, or the equivalent, of two languages is acceptable if approved by the student's committee.

Master of Education—Plan B. Students wishing to include a creative project as part of their master's degree program should enroll in the Master of Education (Plan B) program. Three credits will be given for ELED 6960, Master's Creative Project. All MED students will complete EDUC 6550 (Research for Classroom Teachers, 3 credits) and other courses listed on the current Program of Study form. A committee chair and two committee members will work with students completing the creative project; however, the chairperson will have major responsibility in approving the proposal and primarily work as the program advisor, with the committee members being involved more directly in the presentation of the creative project.

Master of Education—Plan C. In order to provide another option for prospective elementary education master's degree students, the Department of Elementary Education conducts a Plan C option within its Master of Education Degree. The basic elements of a Plan C option include completion of 40 credits of prior approved graduate courses, completion of an exit paper, and an oral review.

The exit paper should be a pre-planned scholarly activity. It could be a paper discussing coursework applicability to the student's teaching assignment, or a written plan for changing curriculum and/or instruction drawing on coursework and the student's role, etc. The intent is that the exit paper be an integral part of the planned course of study.

A notice of intent to complete the degree must be filed with the School of Graduate Studies *at the beginning of the last semester of coursework*. A letter of completion should be filed by the department chairperson upon successful completion of all requirements.

Degree Programs—Off Campus

Two avenues exist for students wishing to pursue a master's degree in the Department of Elementary Education at Utah State University primarily through offerings at USU Continuing Education centers. They are as follows:

Master of Education—Plan B. Off-campus students wishing to include a creative project as part of their master's degree program should enroll in the Master of Education Program. Three credits will be given for ELED 6960 (Master's Creative Project). All MED students will complete the required core and other courses listed on the current Program of Study form. A committee chair and two committee members will work with students completing the creative project; however, the chairperson will have major responsibility in approving the proposal and primarily work as the program advisor, with the committee members being involved more directly in the presentation of the creative project (oral exam).

Master of Education—Plan C. In order to provide another option for prospective off-campus elementary education master's degree students, the Department of Elementary Education conducts a Plan C option within its Master of Education Degree. The basic elements of a Plan C option include completion of 40 credits or prior approved graduate courses, completion of an exit paper, and an oral review.

The exit paper should be a pre-planned scholarly activity. It could be a paper discussing coursework applicability to the student's teaching assignment, or a written plan for changing curriculum and/or instruction drawing on coursework and the student's role, etc. The intent is that the exit paper be an integral part of the planned course of study.

A notice of intent to complete the program should be filed by the student with the department and the School of Graduate Studies *at the beginning of the semester the candidate is to finish the degree*. A letter of completion should be filed by the committee chairperson upon successful completion of all requirements.

Doctoral Programs (PhD and EdD)

The department participates in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Education, which includes the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and the Doctor of Education (EdD). For information about areas of specialization, emphasis of study, research sponsored, admission requirements, procedures to follow, and other information, see pages 185-186 of this catalog.

Additional Information

All students completing master's degrees in Elementary Education must enroll for a minimum of 10 credits *on the USU campus*, except for students completing their degrees at the following USU continuing education centers: Uintah Basin Campus (Vernal and Roosevelt), Moab Center, Price Center, and Blanding Center.

The Program of Study form for the appropriate degree and plan described above should be approved by the committee and submitted to the School of Graduate Studies *at least two months prior to the oral exam, oral review, or presentation appropriate to that degree*.

After matriculation into the program, a master's degree must be completed within a six-year time period. Pass/fail grades will be accepted only for seminars, special problems, interdisciplinary workshops, thesis or dissertation research, and continuing graduate advisement. A maximum of 8 workshop credits may be included. Transfer credit accepted toward a degree is normally limited to 6 credits; however, with prior approval, 12 transfer credits may be accepted. A maximum of 15 credits taken during one summer may be counted toward the degree. A maximum of

12 credits taken before admission to the program may be counted toward the degree. All coursework in a student's area of specialization must be taken at the 6000 level or above, in order to be applied toward a graduate degree in the Department of Elementary Education. Coursework goes out-of-date after eight years.

Admission deadlines for students applying to graduate programs are: June 15 for fall semester, October 15 for spring semester, and March 15 for summer semester.

Research

Cooperation with other departments and research centers at the University, as well as with public school and State Office of Education collaborators, permits strong graduate programs in all phases of elementary education. Research opportunities are available with the Edith Bowen Laboratory School, cooperating school districts in Utah and surrounding states, the Utah State Office of Education, and the United States Department of Education.

Financial Assistance

Both departmental and School of Graduate Studies support are available for the regular academic program and are awarded on a competitive basis. Students requesting financial support should apply to the department by March 15. To be eligible for financial assistance, a student must attend USU full-time. No financial assistance is available for summer semester.

Assistantships. Teaching assistantships are available through the department. Some research assistantships are available through faculty members who have ongoing projects with off-campus funding agencies.

Students are not eligible for assistantships or any form of financial assistance from the University until all application procedures are completed and the student is formally admitted to a program of studies.

Acceptance to pursue graduate study does not guarantee the student financial assistance. Inasmuch as funds are limited, the assistantships are awarded by the department to cover specific teaching assignments and by the faculty to provide for research.

Doctoral students desiring information about financial assistance should write to: Coordinator, Doctoral Degrees, College of Education and Human Services, 2800 Old Main Hill, Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-2800.

Career Opportunities

Positions in Higher Education—Master Teachers. Many school districts support and encourage teachers to further their education and expertise by obtaining a master's degree. Added fi-

nancial remuneration generally accompanies the completion of such a degree. Supervisors, curriculum specialists, and other professional careers are enhanced by completion of a master's degree.

Completion of a doctorate degree qualifies the graduate for a wide variety of careers, including positions in higher education, curriculum specialist positions in school districts and state offices of education, positions in educational agencies of the United States government, and educational specialist positions in business and industry.

Elementary Education Faculty

Emma Eccles Jones Distinguished Professor

D. Ray Reutzel, reading

Professors

Deborah A. Byrnes, social studies education, early childhood education

Bernard L. Hayes, reading education

Associate Professors

James J. Barta, mathematics, early childhood education

Gary L. Carlston, instructional leadership

Martha T. Dever, foundations, early childhood education

James T. Dorward, mathematics, program evaluation, middle level education

Parker C. Fawson, reading

Scott L. Hunsaker, gifted/talented education, foundations

Francine Fukui Johnson, foundations, gifted/talented education, supervision

Rebecca M. Monhardt, science education

John A. Smith, reading education, research methods

Assistant Professors

Tricia M. Gallagher-Geurtsen, social studies, multicultural/multilingual education

Leigh C. Monhardt, science education

Lisa Pray, bilingual/English-as-a-second-language education

Sylvia Read, language arts education

Martha L. Whitaker, foundations

Temporary Lecturers

Lorilynn B. Brandt, reading education

Judy Greene, language arts/foundations

Course Descriptions

Elementary Education (ELED), pages 383-387