



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Elementary Education

Department of Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education & Human Services

Program of Study

Students combine a foundation of general studies with major courses and clinical experiences with children as they complete the Elementary Education curriculum. A Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education leads to Illinois teacher certification in grades kindergarten through nine (self-contained classrooms). With the completion of additional coursework, students can earn one or more middle school endorsements to teach specific subject areas in a departmentalized setting.

In addition to extensive coursework in the major, students begin observing children early in the program and begin working with them as tutors and classroom aides in their junior year. During the comprehensive pre-student teaching field experience in the first semester of their senior year, students teach lessons in mathematics, science, reading, language arts, and social studies. The program culminates in a 12-week student teaching experience.

Faculty

The faculty members in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction have a strong interest in helping all students develop into skilled, competent, and creative professionals. All faculty have practical teaching experience in public schools. Professors in the department have a doctorate or a terminal degree in their field. Faculty are actively involved in a variety of professional organizations; provide continuing education workshops for teachers; and publish books and articles in state, national, and international journals.

Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available to academically talented students through the department and the College of Education and Human Services. Additional information about these scholarships can be obtained by visiting our department website at www.wiu.edu/curriculum.

Honors in Elementary Education

To be eligible for the Illinois Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit www.wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. Honors students in the Elementary Education program enroll in a seminar designed specifically for the major and complete honors projects in their teaching methods courses.

Student Activities

Students participate in professional groups such as the Student Education Association, Dean's Advisory Council, departmental advisory committees, Blue Key, Mortar Board, and Alpha Upsilon Alpha (Reading Honor Society). Students are involved in the Western Illinois Reading Council, the PreK-8 Science Update Conference, and science education workshops. Further information about other student activities and organizations available to all Western students can be found at <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Special Opportunities

The Elementary Education program is accredited through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The faculty in the department are committed to meeting the needs of individual students and communicate with them frequently. Elementary Education majors complete three reading, two social studies, two science, and two mathematics teaching methods courses that fully prepare them for the demands of the classroom. The use of technology and techniques to accommodate the needs of individual children are emphasized throughout the program. Students apply the knowledge gained in the college classroom as they complete a variety of field experiences and student teaching. Majors develop an electronic portfolio that can be used to showcase their knowledge and skills in a job interview.

The department's "Outstanding Preservice Teaching Award" recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in their academic coursework and their teaching experiences.

After College

Nationwide studies indicate teacher shortages in some areas and suggest that job opportunities will increase. All graduates of the Elementary Education program are qualified to teach in self-contained kindergarten through 9th grade classrooms. With additional coursework, graduates may earn endorsements in specific content areas and teach in departmentalized 5th through 8th grade classrooms. After teaching in the classroom several years, some teachers take graduate coursework to become qualified to serve as reading specialists, principals, curriculum directors, and superintendents.

For More Information

Specific questions can be addressed to the department chair by phoning (309) 298-1961 or e-mailing CJ-Dooley@wiu.edu. Additional information can also be found on the department website at www.wiu.edu/curriculum.

A typical four-year program of study is outlined below. Please note that students seeking middle school endorsements must complete additional coursework.

Elementary Education Sequence of Courses

Eng 180+ Hist 105 or 106 Math 106+ Lab Sci Mus 190	College Writing I American History Math for Elem Teachers (Biology) What to Listen for in Music	(3) (3) (3) (4) (3)	Art 180 Math 206+ Lab Sci Geog 110 EIEd 110	Multicultural Intro to Art Geometry for Elem Teachers (Physical) World Regional Geography Seminar in Elem Ed	(3) (3) (3) (4) (3) (1)	Freshman Year • Complete 6 SH Writing Intensive courses during first 3 semesters • Complete Eng 180 & Math 106 with grade of "C" or better
Eng 280+ HE 120 PolS 122 Comm 241+ EIS 302+ EIEd 170 Social Sci	College Writing II Human Well-Being American Gov/Politics Intro to Public Speaking Multicultural/Social Found. Class Observation/Sem (elective)	(3) (2) (3) (3) (3) (1) (3)	EIS 201+ LLA 313+ Kin 360+ SpEd 310+ IDT 285 EIEd 270 EIEd 445	Human Well-Being Educational Psychology Children's Literature Methods Elementary Phys Ed The Exceptional Individual Technology Standards Teachers Elem Ed Field Work/Sem II Honors/Seminar Elem Ed (if Honors student)	(1) (3) (3) (2) (3) (3) (1) (2)	Sophomore Year • Complete Eng 280, Math 206, & Comm 241 with grade of "C" or better • Must be fully accepted to Teacher Education Program by end of sophomore year
Successfully pass State Basic Skills Test			Reflective Paper #1			
*SSEd 365+ *Rdg 383+ ScEd 364+ or Math 364+ SpEd 390+ EIS 301+ EIEd 370+	Teaching Our Heritage Lit Instruction Early Grades Intro Sci Methods Teaching Elem Math I Classroom Adaptions Educational Psychology Field Work Elem Ed I	(3) (3) (3) (3) (1) (3) (1)	*SSEd 495+ *Rdg 384+ ScEd 364+ or Math 364+ ScEd 464+ or Math 366+ C&I 476+ EIEd 371+	Teaching/Global Perspectives Lit Instruction Intermediate Intro Sci Methods Elem Teaching Elem Math I Integrating Sci Through Inquiry Teaching Elem Math II Parent/Community Involvement Field Work Elem Ed II	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (1)	Junior Year • Submit: • Student Teaching Application • Graduation Application
ScEd 464+ or Math 366+ *Rdg 433+ *EIEd 470+ EIS 401+	Integ Sci Through Inquiry Teaching Elem Math II Intro Corrective Reading Senior Field Work Hist. & Phil. Foundations	(3) (3) (3) (4) (2)	*EIEd 410	*Student Teaching Senior Seminar in Elem Ed	(12) (1)	Senior Year
Successfully pass Illinois Certification Teaching System – EIEd Subject Matter Test			Reflective Paper #2 Successfully pass Illinois Certification Teaching System – Assessment of Professional Teaching			

*Must be taken concurrently

+Grade of "C" or higher required

Note: This plan is subject to successful completion of prerequisites and/or availability of courses.

www.wiu.edu/curriculum

Department of Curriculum & Instruction

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