The Elementary Education program provides students with the professional education knowledge and skills necessary to teach students with diverse learning needs in kindergarten through grade 6. Upon graduation from this program, students are eligible for a Professional Florida Educator’s Certificate for teaching kindergarten through grade 6 students and endorsements in Reading and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). This is a competitive major that prepares University of West Florida graduates for the ever-changing world of education.

**About This Major**

**College:** College of Education and Professional Studies  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Elementary Education  
**Required Hours for the Degree:** 128

Through engaging hands-on field experiences in local elementary schools, students will be prepared to work with students of varying needs and positively impact their lives. You will learn to engage students in inquiry, facilitate learning, develop curriculum, and collect, analyze and interpret student data to inform instruction. The program prepares individuals to teach reading, writing, science, mathematics, social studies, critical thinking skills, and problem solving strategies to elementary school students.

**Field Instruction**

**Field Experiences**

The Elementary Education degree program includes two 100-hour field experiences in K-6 classrooms under the careful supervision of an experienced teacher prior to their capstone experience, Student Teaching.

Field experiences are designed for UWF students to observe effective teaching practices and deepen their knowledge base related to content, the learner and learning, instructional practice, and professional responsibility. Students develop their planning and instructional skills as they tutor individual and small groups of K-6 students, and provide whole group instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Field experience 2 also includes an emphasis on teaching English Language Learners.

Student Teaching is the capstone experience for students in the Elementary Education program. During the semester-long experience, students gradually assume full teaching responsibilities in a K-6 classroom with the guidance and support of an experienced teacher. They demonstrate that they can effectively provide diverse K-6 students with rigorous standards-based instruction, and are prepared for their first teaching position.

**Internship Opportunity**

A limited number of year-long paid internships in high-need Escambia County schools are available each year for exemplary students. These internships fulfill the student teaching requirement.

**Career Opportunities**

- Public School Teacher (K-6)  
- Private School Teacher (K-6)  
- International Teacher (K-6)  
- Instructional Materials Developer  
- Supplemental Education Services Provider

**Contact**

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The Elementary Education degree includes 64 semester hours of coursework in general and subject-specific methods and strategies with a focus on engaging elementary students in meaningful learning experiences. Students must be admitted to the Elementary Education program prior to enrolling in any 3000/4000 level education coursework. Program admission requirements include a cumulative GPA of 2.5, completion of EDF1005 with a grade of “C-” or better, and a passing score on the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE)-General Knowledge test. Elementary Education students must complete all teacher education courses with a grade of “C-” or better, maintain a GPA of at least 2.5, and earn passing scores on the FTCE-Professional Knowledge and Elementary Education K-6 tests by department deadlines in order to be admitted to student teaching. The courses are listed below.

**Prerequisite Course**

EDF 1005 Intro to Education 3.0

**Major Courses**

- EDE 4200 Planning and Curriculum I 3.0
- EDE 4201 Planning and Curriculum II 3.0
- EDF 3234 Applied Foundations of Education 3.0
- EDG 3945 Field Experience 1 3.0
- EDG 4373 Elementary and Special Education Integrated Arts 3.0
- EDG 4345 Educational Assessment 3.0
- EDG 4413 Classroom Management 3.0
- EDG 4949 Field Experience 2 3.0
- EEX 3070 Methods in Inclusion and Collaboration 3.0
- EME 3410 Emerging Technology in the Classroom 3.0
- LAE 3314 Literacy for the Emergent Learner 3.0
- MAE 4310 Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School 3.0
- RED 3310 Literacy Instruction for the Intermediate Learner 3.0
- RED 4542C Assessment and Differentiated Instruction in Reading 3.0
- SCE 4310 Teaching Science in the Elementary School 3.0
- SSE 4113 Social Studies for Elementary Teachers 3.0
- TSL 4080 ESOL Principles and Practices 3.0
- TSL 4081 Teaching English to ESOL Students 3.0

*Students must choose one of the following student teaching options: 12.0*

**Option 1**

- EDG 4936 Senior Seminar
- EDG 4940 Student Teaching

**Option 2**

- EDG 4936 Senior Seminar
- EDG 4941 Teaching Internship I
- EDG 4942 Teaching Internship II

**Total Hours** 64.0