

Bachelor of Science Major in Elementary Education

With an Optional Concentration in Early Childhood / Primary Education

Minimum Credit in the Major - 48 Credit Hours

The major in Elementary Education focuses on the theory and practice of learning and teaching at the elementary level and prepares individuals to teach in the elementary grades (K-6). The curriculum builds upon foundational courses in education and comprises a series of professional core and methods courses. Professional education requirements typically involve fieldwork at local public school sites and student teaching in the senior semester. This major also serves as an excellent foundation for students seeking to continue their professional development in education.

Students in the elementary education major are given the option to add a concentration in early childhood/primary education that satisfies the educational requirement for a Florida teaching certification endorsement in teaching pre-kindergarten/primary education. This would allow the student to seek employment working with children ages three to eight years old in a school or non-school setting.

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Science program, students will be able to:

- Express and interpret ideas clearly, using a variety of written, oral and/or visual forms.
- Use different modes of disciplinary and interdisciplinary inquiry to explore ideas and issues from multiple perspectives.
- Express ethical and social implications in their social, professional, artistic and/or scholarly practice.
- Articulate a perspective on the world and their place in the global community.

Upon completion of the major in Elementary Education, students will be able to:

- Identify relevant skills needed to help all children learn to their fullest potential.
- Adapt teaching to a wide range of diverse students.
- Create positive learning environments.

Upon completion of the major and the concentration in Early Childhood/Primary Education, students will also be able to:

- Apply research-based effective practices for classroom design and curriculum planning.
- Design developmentally appropriate curriculum in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies for young children.
- Select and apply developmentally appropriate diagnostic assessment and evaluation tools in order to make instructional decisions about the educational needs for all children and their families.
- Examine age appropriate strategies for designing suitable behavioral and child management systems for prekindergarten/primary age children.
- Utilize ethical guidelines and professional standards in working with young children and their families.

Graduates of this major will meet the general standards for teachers established by the state of Florida.

- They will know and demonstrate competence in each of the 12 standards of the “Educator Accomplished Practices” (see B.S. Handbook).

- They will demonstrate mastery of the state's subject area specialization requirements in Language Arts, Reading and Writing, Mathematics, Social Science, Science and Technology, Music, Visual Arts, and Physical Education and Health.

Note: (All education courses may be taken for either three or four credits. A modified syllabus reflecting the four-credit amount of work will be provided.)

Foundations Courses in Education (3-4 credits each, total 15 credits)

EDU 317	Psychological Foundations of Education
EDU 330	Classroom Management
EDU 331*	Foundations and Practices in Teaching Reading
EDU 334	Educational Assessment
EDU 335	Effective Instructional Practices

Core Courses in the Major (3-4 credits each, total 30 credits)

EDU 307*	Sequential Developmental Skills and Concepts of Reading
EDU 308*	Recognition and Diagnosis of Reading Problems
EDU 309*	Methods and Materials to Improve Reading Performance
EDU 322	Content and Methods of Teaching Music in the Elementary School
EDU 323	Content and Methods of Teaching Art in the Elementary School
EDU 324	Content and Methods of Teaching Health and Physical Education in the Elementary School
EDU 325	Content and Methods of Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School
EDU 326**	Content and Methods of Teaching Language Arts in Elementary School
EDU 327	Content and Methods of Teaching Science in the Elementary School
EDU 328	Content and Methods of Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School

Courses in the Early Childhood/Primary Education concentration (A total of 18 credits is needed to complete this concentration.)

ECS 405	Curriculum Development for Early Childhood Education (4 credits)
ECE 410	Developmentally Appropriate Integrated Curriculum for Ages 3-5 (3 credits)
ECE 305	Health Nutrition and Safety of Young Children (2 credits)
ECE 310	Diagnosis, Assessment & Evaluation of Young Children (3 credits)
ECE 311	Child Guidance and Management of Classrooms with Young Children (3 credits)
ECE 312	Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families (3 credits)

Electives (3-4 credits each)

EDU 306	Curriculum Development
ENG 335**	Children's Literature
ESOL 323	Methods of Teaching ESOL
ESOL 325	ESOL Curriculum and Materials Development
ESOL 324	Testing and Evaluation of ESOL Students

Also,

EDU 100/200 EDU Independent Studies (1-4 cr.). Each may be taken up to two times.
300/400

EDU 190/290 EDU Special Topics (1-4 cr.). Each may be taken up to two times.
390/490

*In the Elementary Education Major, core courses EDU 307, 308, and 309 substitute for EDU 331 Foundations and Practices in Teaching Reading.

** The Elementary Education elective ENG 335 Children's Literature may substitute for EDU 326.

NOTE: Depending on the number of credits a student needs to complete the degree, all education courses are offered the option to be selected for four (4) credits each. This does not change the number of credits needed to grant the degree for graduation.

Additional elective learning may be accepted when appropriate to the major. Acceptable elective learning may include: prior learning that meets program criteria for acceptance; general education courses (beyond those required by the program) and courses offered through other majors, following published syllabi; and/or individually designed courses developed by the student in consultation with her/his faculty advisor, and submitted using the learning agreement form. All additional electives must be endorsed by the faculty advisor and the dean and documented in the approved degree plan prior to registration.

Culminating Graduation Requirement:

Students meet the capstone requirement for the Bachelor of Science major in Elementary Education by satisfactorily completing **one of the following**:

- **Student Teaching (12 credits total) which consists of**
EDU 496 Capstone Foundations Workshop: Student Teaching Seminar (3 credits)
EDU 499 Capstone Learning Experience: Student-Teaching (9 credits)
OR
- **Capstone Courses (3-4 credits each), two courses required**
EDU 497 Contemporary Perspectives on Classroom Organization
EDU 498 Historical, Philosophical and Contemporary Issues in Special Education
OR
- **Research Paper**
(Taken in the final semester – separate credit not awarded).

NOTE: Upper-level prior learning examinations and certified learning credits are accepted by the state of Florida toward education major course requirements.