

Elementary Education

The Elementary Education major is designed to prepare students to teach in grades K-6 in private and public schools. As an education major, you'll be mentored by professors who will guide and encourage you during your journey toward a degree and teacher licensure, and a classroom of your own! We have a wide range of P-12 school partnerships that will give you extensive interaction with current teachers in real classrooms as early as your sophomore year. You'll observe and assist in classrooms before you become a student teacher your senior year. Elementary Education majors must complete a minimum of 12 credits in an area of academic emphasis approved by the School of Education. Additional Licensure endorsements (5-8 additional certification) may be earned, see catalog for more information.

What Type of Work are Related to this Degree?

- Teaching in your area of specialty
- Private tutoring
- Creating/directing educational programs
- Curriculum development
- Instructional design (technology training may be required)
- Textbook editing
- Online education
- Student life/student affairs
- Corporate or business training and development
- Nanny
- Children's ministry

More information at ONETonline.org

Who Employs People with this Degree?

- Schools of all kinds-public, private, charter, international, government, residential
- Daycare and nursery school
- Parks and Recreation departments
- Educational testing companies
- Curriculum/educational publishers
- School district offices
- Educational research firms
- Industries related to your subject area (e.g., PE majors could work in the areas of fitness, health, or wellness)
- Non-profit organizations
- Universities and colleges
- Employee training programs

General Strategies for Success:

- Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state; multiple certifications will increase employability. A master's degree will increase earning potential.
- Be willing to work hard at finding a job and to go where the jobs are.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, or volunteer experience with the age group you intend to work with in various settings: pre-schools, daycares, camps, community agencies, adult centers, YMCA's, etc.
- Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills, interests, and opportunities. Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to other careers: written and verbal communication, teaching and instruction, program planning, organization and record keeping, working under pressure and meeting deadlines, motivational skills, creativity, working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving.

Professional Associations

American Educational Research Association
American Federation of Teachers
Association for Experiential Education
National Education Association
US Department of Education (listing of associations)
Association for Childhood Education International
National Association for the Education of Young Children
Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
Professional Association for Childhood Education

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career & Leadership Development or check out our online resources on our website or on myUNW, Career & Leadership Development tab.